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Pass Christian

Tri-Centennial

1699 - 1999

by

Dan Ellis

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The Author -- Dan Ellis
225 Fairway Drive, Pass Christian, MS 39571
(601)452-3138 or Fax (601)452-2499

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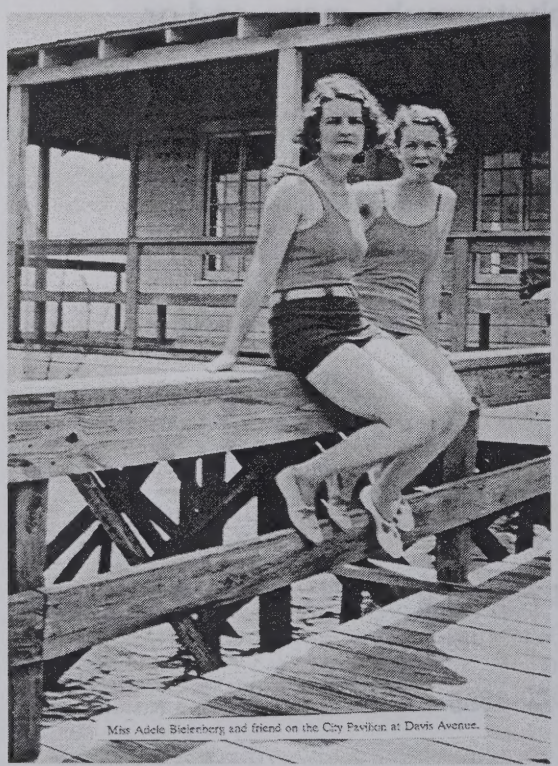
PASS CHRISTIAN is composed of tradition, heritage and beauty. It is rich in its past; and fabulous in its day to day style of living. *The Pass* is sublime with a blending of local and newcomer residents. Gazebo gardens, and piers reaching out into the Mississippi Sound, and antebellum homes -- are symbolic with its past and present. Miss Adele Bielenberg, a retired educator and champion of the values of this heritage, is seated with a friend at the City Pavillion, which once stood above the waters at the foot of Davis Avenue.



Miss Adele Bielenberg and friend on the City Pavilion at Davis Avenue.

INTRODUCTION

The Book -- by Dan Ellis

Having read just about every book and reference that has been available pertaining to Pass Christian's history and having access to nearly 200 category files that Billy Bourdin has arduously assembled on subjects, events and people of the Pass, I have therefore relished the ongoing involvement by furthering my research pertaining to this renowned community. Having written numerous articles, and several books about the Pass, I am most pleased to render this new historical release.

The material gathered from the earliest historic incidents was garnered from many resource documents and interviews. Much of the information was sifted from newspaper clippings amassed in the *Billy Bourdin Historical Collections* which produced some interesting material to work with. But, also gratefully, many of the photographs came from parishioners who faithfully answered the call to browse through their attics and closets. Nap Cassibry also provided additional material and insight to some of the difficult research endeavors performed. Very helpful also, was and is, the staff members at the County Court Houses of Hancock and Harrison as well as the Pass Christian Public Library.

The Cover -- The Pass Christian Depot

Prior to the introduction of the Railroad, the excitement of newly arriving tourists and friends was constant along the several long wharves which extended out to the Sound from Market Street and in front of the VFW Hall (formerly, the *Rhodes Trading Palace*). However, once the Depot was built, most newcomers arrived as train passengers. This then became the new nerve center for Pass townsfolk.

Eugene Aschaffenburg was 87 years old when he reflected on the above and other incidents of interest, such as the Dedeaux brothers who operated a livery stable. "*They use to pick up arriving passengers returning daily from New Orleans aboard the L&N railroad. The family bought their provisions from Farrell's Grocery Store located at the foot of Market Street before Highway 90 was laid out. A Shrimp Factory was then located where the Yacht Club is now.*"

(Note: The above information was gleaned from a transcribed interview with Eugene Aschaffenburg by Betty Carlin in 1988. These tapes are stored for posterity at the Pass Christian Historical Society.)

Pass Christian *Tri-Centennial*

Table of Contents

Foot Tracks at the Bayous	1
Christian and Cuevas	2
The Peninsula	2
Stars and Stripes	3
Thriving Community	4
Harbor Factories and Oyster Reefs.	7
All Roads led to Pass Christian	8
Castles in the Sand	9
Antebellum Homes -- Scenic Drive	13
The Pass Social Club	21
Nostalgic Episodes - 1900 to 1930	22
Unwavering Visionary of the Pass	24
Shades of Washington	26
Duel in the Pass	27
Japanese Gardens	29
Inn by the Sea	30
Southern Yachting	32
Municipal Harbor	35
Oyster Reefs	37
The Lighthouses	38
The Town Library	39
The Historical Society	39
Museé Bourdin	41
Mardi Gras	42
Blessing of the Fleet	44
Seafood Festivals	45
Christmas in the Pass	46
Churches of the Pass	47
Camille was no Lady	50
The School Systems	54
Historic Scenic Drive	55
City Government	57
Harbour Oaks Inn	58
The Blue Rose	59
Valentino's	61
Latter & Blum	63
Market Street	64
Inn at the Pass	65
The Hillyer House	67
Hancock Bank	69
St. Patrick's Parade	71
Davis Avenue	73
Magnolia Bank	74
Café du Soleil	77
Henderson Avenue	79
Peoples Bank	80
Second Street	82
The Public Library	84
P.C.I. Gulf Club	86
Hide-Away Homes	88
Castle Sherman	89
Jazz in the Pass	91

Pass Christian

Birthplace of Southern Yachting

Foot Tracks at the Bayous

Pass Christian was pioneered in 1699 by French-Canadian Pierre LeMoyne D'Iberville and his brother Bienville. Having made foraging probes from Ship Island into the waters of the bays of Biloxi, Pascagoula and Mobile, they sounded for passageway around Cat Island and entered the Bay of St. Louis in seeking the mouth of the Missisippi River.

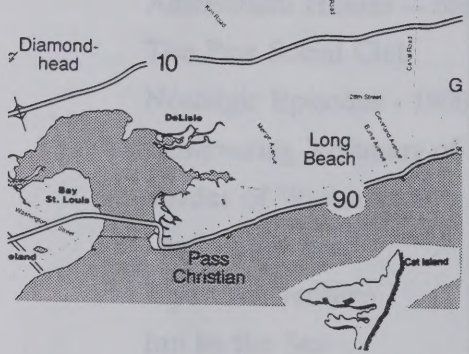
Several of their entourage explored the Bay of St. Louis and penetrated the various water inlets flowing into it as they sought nearby Indians for more knowledge of the terrain. Many of the Indian names of the bayous and rivers were translated to French appellations, reportedly performed by the Comte DeLisle. One of the early chroniclers was Andre Jean Penicaut, who arrived as an 18 year old ship's carpenter and whose "Journals" described the area around Bay St. Louis as being plentiful with buffalo, deer and bear. It was here that many hunting trips were made to secure food for the settlers in Old Biloxi and Mobile. Jean Baptiste Saucier, a French-Canadian sergeant, frequently led small groups of soldiers and Canadians to make camp in the area during the early 1700s. Sometimes they stayed for several months when food supplies dwindled at the Coastal settlements as they awaited expected ship arrivals from France.

Christian and Cuevas at Cat Island

Christian de L'Adnier arrived on the Coast at Mobile in 1719 aboard the Ship "*Le Marie*" from Lucerne, France. He married Marie Brunel and produced three sons. It was Nicholas Christian Ladner, the youngest son, who in 1745, moved to Cat Island where he had been bringing cattle for several years. During one of his visits to New Orleans, in 1758 he chose as his bride, Marianne Paquet. This loving couple produced eleven children and it was from this union that the two channels in the Mississippi Sound, *Pass Christian* and *Pass Marianne*, are credited for their naming. Prior to these names, old French maps called the area *Passe aux Huîtres* for the prolification of oyster reefs and battures.

Later, under Spanish rule, Juan Cuevas was sent to the New World. Following his arrival at Pensacola, he explored the regions of the mainland and the barrier islands. Upon landing at Cat Island, he was introduced to one of the daughters of Christian and Marianne. Juan married her and was invited to remain at the island even after Christian's other sons and daughters departed for the mainland or to New Orleans.

Pass Christian Settlements
Inhabitants of Cat Island, the Pass peninsula, and DeLisle were in frequent communication with each other by way of schooners, canoes, or skiffs. Most of the first marriages took place between the Ladners, Nicaises, Sauciers, Cuevases, Morans, Dubuissons and Lizanas.



Pass Christian -- The Peninsula

It was not until the Spanish Grant of 1781 to Francois Carriére that Pass Christian's existence became officially documented. However, during the 1770s, Carriére, along with other neighbors, journeyed to the British West Florida capital of Pensacola in order to pledge allegiance to English rule. It is quite evident that the Ladners, Cuevases, and Morans of Cat Island and the Sauciers, Nicaises, Grelots and Labats of DeLisle and the Carriéres of Pass Christian were bound together politically, economically and socially. They also participated in shared religious beliefs, bonds of matrimony and baptismal celebrations. Routinely, they communicated by way of the bayous, rivers, the Bay and the Sound, by schooner, skiff, and canoe.

Upon the death of Francois Carriére, Pass Christian was passed to his wife, Donna Julia de la Brosse, who was also known as the Widow Asmard. However, when the Widow died, the disposition of her properties, although set down in her Will of 1797, were not acknowledged. Nevertheless, because she had freed her family slaves, Charles and his wife Madelon and their children, held legal title to a large tract of land which the Widow had given them in a Deed of Gift.

The Charles Asmard property, approximately 680 acres, fronted the beach and extended from west of Market Avenue to the middle of the 400 Block of East Scenic Drive near Seal Avenue and northward

towards Bayou Portage. This same property now encompasses most of the commercial district of Pass Christian. Upon the former Negro slave's death in 1835, the unsold portion of his property was passed on to nine of his heirs.

Since the Widow Asmard's Will was not honored, Bartholomew Pellerin, a Spanish Captain, made claim to the vast remaining area of 17,084 arpents, or approximately 14,500 acres. This expansive area included all of Henderson Point extending eastward to Bear Point near the present day University of Southern Mississippi -- Gulf Park Campus at Long Beach. Pellerin sold his lands to Edward Livingston in 1814, who in turn, sold the balance of that vast property to John Henderson in 1836. John Henderson and his son Elliot are acknowledged for developing Pass Christian as a resort community. John Henderson became well known as an outstanding and well versed United States Senator representing Mississippi on its entry into Statehood in 1817.

The Great Oak
Famous for years as the largest Live Oak on the Coast. This majestic giant was known as the *King of Oaks* and was located at Seal Avenue and Second Street, it died in the 1950s. Seal Avenue was originally called Hogs Alley.

Stars and Stripes along the Sound

In 1803, President Jefferson sent James Monroe to France to purchase the City of New Orleans and West Florida, which extended from Baton Rouge to Mobile. Incredibly, Napoleon countered by including the entire Louisiana domain in the sale. W.C.C. Claiborne was sent to New Orleans to assume the Territorial Governorship of Louisiana.

In 1810, Governor Claiborne expanded territorial possessions by claiming West Florida for the United States. This was concluded on January 9, 1811, as a small armada arrived from New Orleans led by Dr. William Flood, who hoisted the American flag announcing control over the water ways of the Gulf of Mexico. In preparing to defend against the British, he stopped at Pearl River, where he designated Simon Favre as a Justice of the Peace and also appointed Philippe Saucier of DeLisle, a Justice. While there, he raised the Stars and Stripes at Bay St. Louis (then, Shieldsboro) and at Pass Christian.

As aggressions increased, the area became a staging ground for military thrusts by American troops in patroling English garrisons at Mobile and Pensacola. It was near the end of the War of 1812 that a British brigade invaded Ship Island and landed thousands of troops. British forays were discharged to seek out food and stores.

As part of a delaying action, Lieutenant Thomas Ap Catesby Jones aboard the "*Seahorse*" was sent to confront the superior British force in the Mississippi Sound. He anchored his vessels just west of Pass Christian during the night to await the British boats by sun light.

However, he had become bogged down in shallows by a low tide. As the tide reversed and the winds refreshed, they were chased by the British into Lake Borgne, where once more they faced the shallow muddy flats of the Rigolets. Taking a stand, Jones was defeated, but only after 300 British were wounded or killed, as opposed to only 80 American casualties.

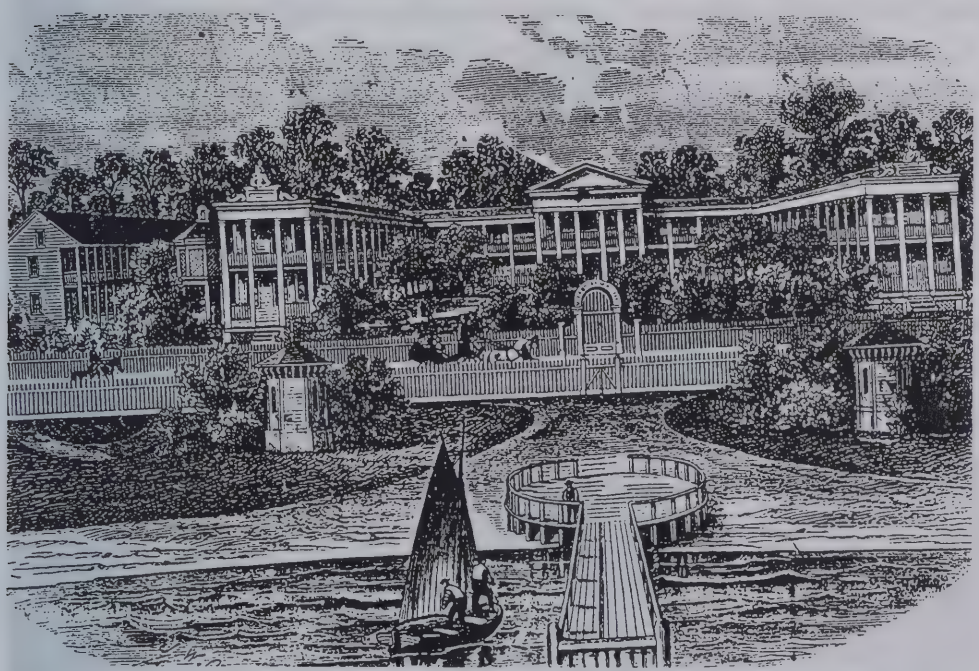
This delaying action afforded General Andrew Jackson the benefit of vital defense preparations for the Battle of New Orleans. Before his death, Simon Favre, of Pearl River had won the Choctaw Indians to the friendship of Andrew Jackson, the Pirate, Jean Lafitte, exchanged vows for the support of his marauders, many of the new Americans along the Coast and along the Mississippi River aided in the cause of the Battle of New Orleans in 1815.

A Thriving Community at The Pass

By the early 1830s, Pass Christian developed into a flourishing community. The Pass had developed as a small port for fishermen as well as a trading center where boats arrived from New Orleans and other port communities along the Coast. Pass Christian was an established and favorite summer retreat for cotton and cane planters from Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. These planters were the first to build private cottages and second home villas along the four mile stretch of shell roadway that fronted the beach area of the Mississippi Sound.

Sailing Regattas
Competition and sportsmanship have been the code of honor for the men, women, and children who so aptly train year round in maneuvering the sea-crafts in the Bay, the Sound, and in Bayou Portage. Traditions and disciplines are deeply imbedded in the Yacht Clubs of the Mexican Gulf from Texas to Florida.

In 1831, construction of the first hotel, the *Pass Christian*, began. Shortly afterwards, appeared the Mansion House, the Sans Souci, the St. Nicholas House, which was exclusively for bachelors, and the Napoleon Hotel; besides several boarding houses and private homes that accomodated guests. Year round commuter service with reliable, inexpensive steamboat connections between New Orleans and Pass Christian encouraged many Orleanians to build homes, resulting in dual citizenship for many. It was at the Pass Christian Hotel that the *Southern Regatta Club* was formed in 1849, which was the precursor to the Southern Yacht Club and the Pass Christian Yacht Club.



All along the coast to the east, fronting the beaches, wealthy people from New Orleans and nearby plantations erected a multitude of mansions, each attempting to outdo the other in majestic architectural performance. Everyone clamored for relaxation and recreation befitting the royalty of the "*Champs Elysee*". This was advantageous for those who could compress their work week and extend their weekends.

When Pass Christian was incorporated in 1838, it was already famous for its gallant and gracious charm and courteous service to its summer guests and residents. The Pass became the largest trading center in Harrison County, exporting many stores and supplies to other world markets. Mississippi pine and cypress timber forests were cut and exported. Throughout the piney woods, kilns were built to produce large quantities of tar and, as a by-product, charcoal.

The Pass Christian Hotel was built in 1831
The opulence, the unflagging service, and the delectable cuisine offered at this hotel until the Civil War, redounded to much favorable publicity for the coastal town of Pass Christian. It was Montgomery, the manager of this fine hotel, who helped promote the regattas which initiated the first yacht club in the South.
The 1851 map below indicates the horse-shoe shape of the Pass Christian hotel near the Lighthouse and had its own wharf nearby to the Steam Boat wharf

Copyright by Dan Ellis, January 1997.

These products were brought by ox-cart to the "Pass" either for local consumption or loaded on ships. Pass Christian also developed as a sheep and wool center, with sheep herders bringing their stock to local auctions for shearing and export. At that time, all roads led to Pass Christian. The Rhodes store, now the VFW hall at Scenic Drive, was where the sheep owners sold their wool to the highest bidders. With the money, the sheep men bought provisions, food, and clothing to take back home with them.

During 1849 and 1850, a renaissance of architectural structures were built along the beach front of Pass Christian. Wealthy people vied with each other in building Antebellum mansions of great splendor. Sixty such homes were built during that period alone. It was also during this period that some of the residents started making their own wines from the grape orchards that they cultivated. By 1860, Pass Christian was recognized as the Queen City of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Labor Day weekends have become most meaningful to yacht clubs of the Gulf Yachting Association because of the contribution of the Lipton Challenge Trophy originated by Sir Thomas Lipton in 1919.

Numerous wharfs were built, extending out from the shore embankments into the Mississippi Sound. These stretched along the coast for approximately a mile on each side of the center of town. The wharfs were built high atop pilings. The oldest location was the old Lighthouse wharf, protruding out from the beach in front of the present day City Hall at Hiern Street. This wharf primarily provided docking for the passenger boats arriving from Mobile and New Orleans.

Harbor Factories and Oyster Reefs

Pass Christian possesses some of the finest oyster reefs in the world. One is located just offshore, extending two and a half miles in length. For hundreds of years these reefs have afforded a source of supply to the whole coastal region. One of the earliest seafood plants was owned and operated by Dunbar-Dukate and Company. The plant was located at the present site of the Pass Christian Yacht Club. The plant was originally built in 1902 and was destroyed by the 1947 hurricane.

Dunbar Dukate Cannery - 1902 to 1947
In the foreground of the Pass Harbor was the seafood factory. Ten schooners were owned and operated by the processing plant. The skiffs at anchor represented an additional 150 independent oystermen who like today used hand tongs to gather their resources.

Below: The oystermen below are awaiting their turn to unload at the back end of the factory.

Workers arrived by truck or box car and were housed in special cottages owned by the factory. There was a large apartment building on Market Avenue which the locals called the "White Elephant", and was reported to house as many as 30 families. Additionally, there were the *Row Houses* consisting of rows of duplexes built one after the other.

The "Green Row" on Dunbar Street had 16 duplexes, and the "Red Row" on Woodman Avenue had 19 duplexes. These houses were eventually abandoned when in 1956 mechanical oyster shuckers were installed, thereby eliminating the need for so many employees.

The Pass Christian group of producing oyster beds consists of nine reefs, comprising an area of about twenty square miles. This group of reefs is most significant to the state of Mississippi.

Front Street or Beach Road
Looking east from Hiern Avenue is a typical coastal gazebo. These romantic structures were prolific along the drive of the Gulf beaches. (The Pass was the first coast community to use oyster and clam shells for road surfacing.)

All roads led to Pass Christian

In 1817, Mississippi became a State. Steamboat service was inaugurated between New Orleans and Mobile in 1827. Lighthouses were constructed at the Pass and at Cat Island in 1831. The former Negro slave Carlos (Charlot) Asmard died in 1835 leaving all of his remaining downtown properties to his heirs. And in 1836, Louise Livingston sold the remainder of the Pass Christian peninsula to John Henderson, et al. Henderson was the originator for land sales and development of *Pass Christian Isles* and *Henderson Point.*

It was with these beginnings in the 1830s, that Pass Christian evolved into a thriving community. This was largely due to its proximity to New Orleans and its participation as a "sister city" in culture as well as in its dynamic spirit. Its first mercantile activity was that of a trading center. The *Pass* had developed as a small port for local fishermen and arriving boats passing through to other port communities along the Coast between Mobile and New Orleans.

Former coast historian, Ray Thompson, described that, "Long before Pascagoula, Ocean Springs, Mississippi City or Biloxi had hit their stride entertaining coast visitors, this community of Pass Christian was an old established and favorite summer retreat for the cotton and cane planters of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. These planters were the first to build private cottages and second home villas along the four mile stretch of (shell) roadway that fronted the beach area of Pass Christian."

When Pass Christian was incorporated in 1838 it was already famous for its gallant and gracious charm and courteous service to its summer guests and residents.

In 1839, the post office was established. In 1844, the first Catholic Mission Church was built and replaced nearby in 1851 with a larger church mounted with a high steeple. The Catholic church was followed shortly by other faithful Christians who built the Trinity Episcopal Church in 1849

During the summer of 1852, a scholar by the name of Benjamin Wailes recorded his journey throughout the coast of Mississippi. He described that, "Two roads led out of this town. The Red Creek Road (Menge Avenue) ran northward following the ridge dividing the Wolf (River) from the Red Creek-Biloxi River System. This was an early farm-to-market trace which brought produce to be sold in the Pass Christian farmer's market. The other road, was the Pass Christian Road (now called Pass Road)." Initially it was an Indian path following the first coastal terrace inland from the Mississippi Sound traversing Harrison County from the Pass to Biloxi, which was a distance of 25 miles. This became the earliest County Road as established in 1842.

Pass Christian became the largest trading center in Harrison County, exporting many stores and supplies to many World markets. Timber forests of Mississippi pine and very tall cypress were extensive. Much of the early cut timber had been exported to France for construction of their naval fleet. Through the years, kilns were built to produce large quantities of tar and, as a by-product, charcoal. These products were brought in by ox-cart to the "Pass" for local consumption, or to be loaded on ships. Pass Christian also developed as a sheep and wool center with sheep herders bringing their stock to local auctions for shearing and export. The Rhodes store, now the VFW hall at Scenic Drive, was where the sheep owners sold their wool to the highest bidders. With the money, the sheep men bought provisions, food, and clothing to take back home with them. From 1820 to 1865, all roads lead to Pass Christian.

In 1897, tracks were laid along the beachfront from Biloxi to Pass Christian in providing local and tourist traffic to travel by streetcar while viewing the beauty of the Mississippi Sound. In 1904, mule power was substituted by electric power. However, since the Beach Avenue residents of the *Pass* refused obstructions on their beaches, the tracks were diverted to Second Street and stoped at Trinity Church. This mode of travel ended in the late 1920s as automobiles made their emergence.

Castles in the Sand

With the building of the New Orleans, Mobile and Chattanooga Railroad in 1869, Pass Christian opened its doors to become the Winter Resort for Northerners seeking to escape the cold. Hotels appeared up and down the beach to care for these frequent visitors.

Pass Christian -- Significant Dates

1699, April, D'Iberville explored Bay St. Louis Area

1699, June, Bienville, Jean Baptiste Saucier and others named Bay of St. Louis and hunted wild game on the Peninsula, returning to hunt once more in August on way back to Biloxi.

1700, Jan 12, Bienville sounded the Passe aux Huîtres west of Cat Island. (Oyster Pass)

1700, Jan 22, Bienville stayed night on Bay St. Louis bluffs on returning from Mississippi River

1713-1717, Antoine Crozat promoted land speculation and development in French Louisiana

1717, Madame de Mezieres held concession to all lands around Bay of St. Louis

1718, Map of New France and Gulf by Comte DeLisle

1719, Christian Ladner arrived aboard the "Le Marie" age 20, he married Marie Brunet (Brunel)

1723, Hurricane devastated the Coast from Bay St. Louis to Pascagoula causing many of existing settlers to move to safer havens

1727, Birth of Christian Ladner's son, Nicholas Christian Ladner, who developed Cat Island and later Old Chimneys (at Long Beach)

1732 - Early French Map shows Pass Christian as "Oyster Pass" (Passe aux Huîstres) (in 1732 Map, Pass was called Basudre aux Huîstres)

1745, Nicholas Christian Ladner married Marianne Patier, moved to Cat Island (Namesakes for Pass Christian and Pass Marianne)

1763, Treaty of Paris -- French withdrew, ceding East of MS to England and ceding West of MS to Spain including New Orleans

1779, Spanish took control of East and West Florida (Spanish Governor Galvez confirmed all holdings of persons engaged in real occupancy and improvement of lands previously granted during British and French dominion.)

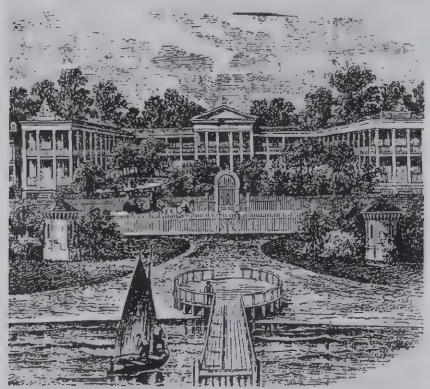
1781, Francois Carriere, Husband of Widow Asmard owned all of Pass Christian peninsula (Spanish Land Grant) (claimed to have been settled earlier by Carriere and used as a Dairy Farm)

Those hotels were imposing wooden structures, which provided fine accommodations with all the amenities for comfort to their guests, both in winter and summer. There were also good boarding houses which were very fashionable during those days.

Each "*Watering Hole*", or hotel spa community, pitted against each other in providing superior services, excellent cuisine and superlative room and suite accommodations.

In 1831, the first hotel was built and was called the Pass Christian Hotel. Local historian and educator, Charles Sullivan is credited with stating, "Antebellum Pass Christian was not a town that possessed a hotel but rather, a hotel that possessed a town." The opening of the Pass Christian Hotel put the village on the map. The hotel had promoted itself as the "*best watering-hole on the Lake*", denoting that the Mississippi Sound was an extension of Lake Pontchartrain. Sullivan continued, "Most of our citizens who have a keen scent for good living, like sociability, love a good bottle of wine, and relish a joke, make the Pass Christian Hotel their favorite stomping ground."

Below: The Pass Christian Hotel was built in 1831. The opulence, the unflagging service, and the delectable cuisine offered at this hotel until the Civil War, redounded to much favorable publicity for the coastal town of Pass Christian. It was Montgomery, the manager of this fine hotel, who helped promote the regattas which initiated the first yacht club in the South.



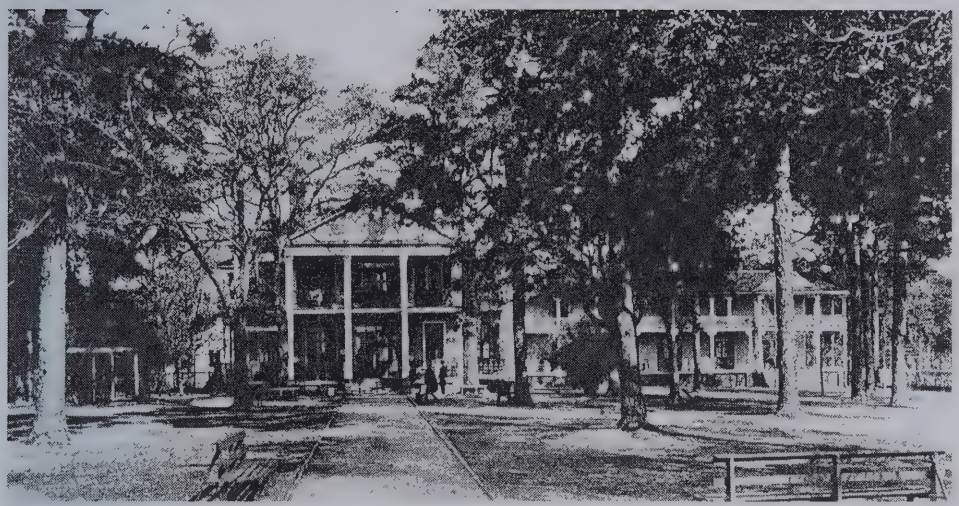
Below: The New Magnolia Hotel was built on the same site as the Pass Christian Hotel. It endured until 1915, when it burned.

The opening of the ***Pass Christian Hotel*** transpired in 1831 bringing to Pass Christian and the entire Gulf Coast such a grandiose facility that all later hotels along the Coast attempted to compete against it.

In 1838, the *New Orleans Daily Picayune* announced that a wharf had been constructed, large enough to transport horse carriages from landing ships. The West wing of the Hotel was also completed.

The Hotel consisted of a center section with a wing on each end with a wide front porch. It was the main stopping place because it was located a short distance from the boat landing. It was later known as the Montgomery hotel for its manager, R.H. Montgomery. With ongoing renovations, it had a main dining room, a ballroom, billiard room, bowling alley, stables, and bathing houses. To the rear was built a "Texas", so named for its use as a bachelor's guest house similar to those provided in Texas which accommodated hard-drinking, male desperados who stayed up all night gambling and being rowdy. In 1866 it was purchased by the Christian Brothers and made into a Catholic College for boys. The building was later remodeled and opened as a hotel again. No other hotel surpassed it until it burned down in 1877.

This favored location was later acquired in 1886 by Rev. Dr. H.C. Mayer who constructed several buildings for an elite school for girls called the Pass Christian Institute. It was later purchased and renovated to become the New Magnolia Hotel which lasted until 1915, when it too, burned. (Today, it is the Miramar Nursing home.)



The Lynne Castle Hotel – 1892 to 1917
This was named for its owner, Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Lynne B. Watkins. It was earlier known as the Pass Christian Military College. The site of construction was where the Pass Christian Village Shopping Center is now located on Highway 90 between Henderson and Clarence.

The Lynne Castle was located in Dr. Savage's old Episcopal School, which was located on Beach Road. The building was purchased and renovated by Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Lynne B. Watkins as his private home. Finding it too large, he converted the estate into a 23 guest chamber house in 1892 and placed it under professional management and was called the Lynne Castle. It burned down in 1917.

The Crescent Hotel was run by the Hart family after they acquired the former *Live Oak House* in 1888. It became quite famous for its food, most of which was raised on its own farm. This fine establishment remains as the only extant Hotel in Pass Christian today which is known as the Harbour Inn on Scenic Drive. The present house to the east side was also included in the original Crescent Hotel complex.

The Mexican Gulf Hotel Company of Pass Christian was organized in 1882 with an authorized capital of $35,000. Before the building was half finished it was found that the cost would be far in excess of the capital stock. The whole plant cost was about $105,000. Doors were opened to guests on June 16th, 1883, with M. J. Crawford as manager. The outstanding indebtedness began to cause trouble from the start. The company defaulted on the bond interest and they were foreclosed upon. The Stockholders led by Frank Howard leased the hotel to Crawford who also struggled along until he spent all of his money and was finally forced out by his creditors in 1887.

The Mexican Gulf Hotel 1885 - 1917
This celebrated hotel continued the acclaim generated by its predecessor, the Pass Christian Hotel. The architectural structure was considered the finest along the entire coast with all modern conveniences for its time. With 250 guest chambers and parlors the room rates were from three to five dollars per day with special discounts for families or for those on extended stay.

Sam Heaslip, acquired the hotel in 1894, renovated it extensively and provided lighting and heating to the 250 guest rooms and chambers. S.F. Heaslip organized the current Pass Christian Yacht Club and became its first Commodore in 1893. In 1916, Albert Aschaffenberg took possession of the hotel, remodelled it, as in photo above, but it burned before opening on January 8th, 1917.

The Grey Castle Hotel was located in the 900 block of East Scenic Drive. In 1929, the Jesuit Order acquired the hotel as a Catholic retreat home for retiring and vacationing priests. It was renamed Xavier Hall and remained until Camille damages caused it to be razed.

The Grey Castle was a handsome family hotel remodeled by adding wings to each side by contractor, Frank Wittmann in December 1923. It was originally built by Mr. Buckner of New Orleans as a Victorian home on East Beach Boulevard (Scenic Drive). The project

included not only the hotel on the beach but a colony of cottages built around many oak and pine trees and beautiful lawns managed by Mrs. William Coutourier. The Grey Castle Hotel thrived during the early 1930's but folded due to the Great Depression and re-opened in 1941 until 1949 as Xavier Hall, a retreat center operated by the Jesuits.

Noting the large number of hotel burnings would make one wonder if their was arson afoot. Downtown Pass Christian also burned extensively in 1838 and again in 1877. The St. Paul Catholic church also burned down in 1876 and the former Pass Christian Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1877. But, these were not the only burnings. There were courthouse burnings that took place in Hancock County also. The Gainsville courthouse burned down in 1853. These catastrophic occurrences resulted in many important property and tax documents having been lost. This was a period when there was little or no fire-fighting equipment and it was also an era of arsonists who put the torch to buildings in order to eliminate competition from neighboring cities or in need of destroying proof of ownership documents. Needless to say, some of the fire losses were not due to arson, but it was strange that downtown Pass Christian burned, but not near the courthouse, yet the court records were indeed destroyed. Thus, much of Pass Christian's early official records do not exist.

Antebellum Homes along Scenic Drive

Scenic Drive is only two-and-a-half miles long and it is entirely within Pass Christian's Historic District which includes 330 acres and consists of 119 dwellings and buildings. For the most part most of the current and former owners of the homes have abided by the national historic preservation restrictions. In 1965, the US News and World Report, the official US Chamber of Commerce magazine, stated that Scenic Drive and Beach Boulevard were one of the three most wealthiest streets in the USA, behind Wall Street and Palm Beach Florida.

During the antebellum period, most construction produced mainly summerhouses, which were single-story structures with a gable roof and three or more bay windows with inset galleries. Typical was a two-room Creole cottage with nogging construction enveloped by foot-thick double-brick exteriors and plastered inside and out. The wall plaster was mixed with deer hair for strengthening and preserving qualities.

Pass Christian – Significant Dates

1781, July 31, Nicholas Christian Ladner registered ownership of Cat Island claiming he had resided on it for 35 years prior (1746)

1781, Juan Cuevas, Andelusian, moved to Cat Island and married Marie Ladner

1781, Jean Baptiste Martial Nicaise moved from Mobile to Wolftown (DeLisle). He married Louise Baptiste Christian Ladner in 1802

1783, Chevalier Dedeaux moved to DeLisle, first wife was Madaline Saucier, Second Wife was Ursule Nicaise

1788, May, Nicholas Christian (Ladner) petitioned and granted land on Coast (Old Chimneys at Long Beach bordering Francois Carriere's Pass Christian)

1793, Dec, Bartheleme Grelot granted 20 arpents in Delisle

1794, July 6, Philip Saucier received Delisle grant, 20 arpents

1796, Pierre Moran moved to northside Wolf River

1796, Will of Julia de la Brosse (Widow Asmard), (codicil in 1797)

1799, Widow Asmard deed of 800 Arpents to Charles Asmar (Her freed slave)

1803, Louisiana Purchase

1804, Coast postal service instituted from Fort Stoddard through Mobile to New Orleans consisting of 200 miles taking 25 days

1805, Indian Treaty resulted in giving up their Coastal lands

1809, Sep, Barthelemy Pellerin surveyed and granted the Pass Peninsula (the former Widow Asmar's Claim excluding Charles' 800 Arpents)

1810, a traveler reported 4 or 5 Free Negroes in the Pass with a number of summer homes built by rich New Orleanians, and 10 to 15 families in Bay St. Louis (Shieldsborough)

1810, forest roads and trails brought many Georgians and Carolinians to the coastal area

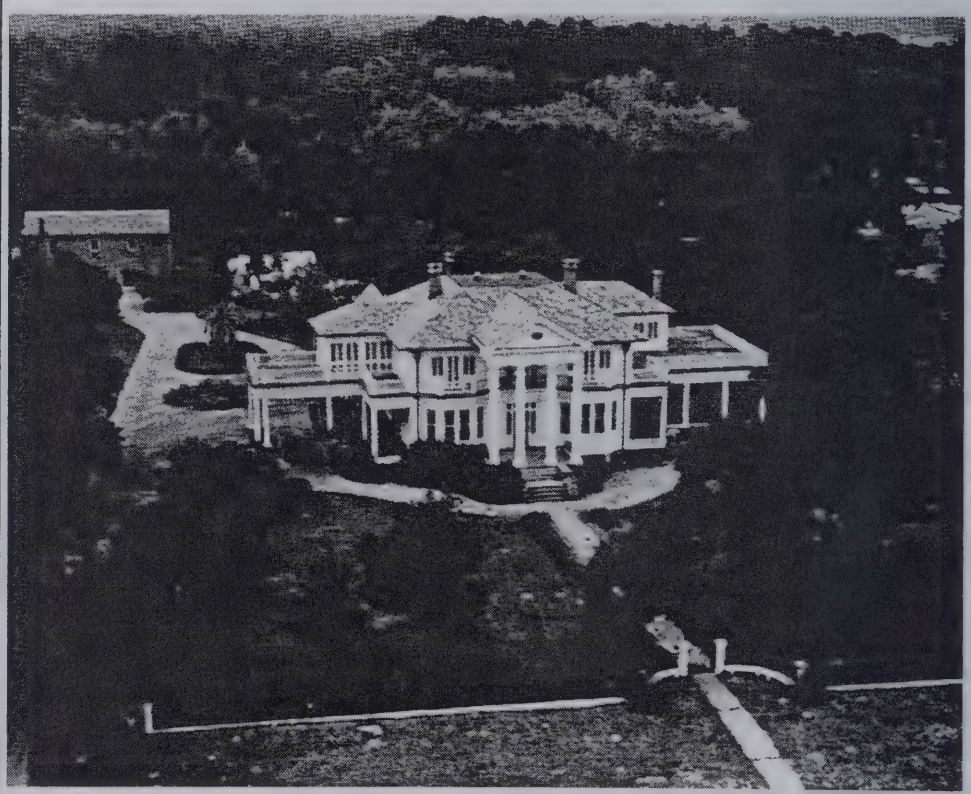
1810, West Florida independence, 74 day Republic, Sep 23 to Dec 10, Lone Star Flag.

1811, Jan 9-13, Claiborne sent Doctor Flood to raise the American Flag on the Gulf coast and to appoint Justices of the Peace, one of whom was Philippe Saucier

Exposed beaded beams and beaded baseboards can still be found in the early nuclear centers of remodeled houses. Cypress blocks were used for foundations with hand-hewn planks for ceilings and cypress beam roofing rafters were covered with green shingles. The huge framing timbers were fastened together by wooden pegs and many of the homes were adorned with hand-carved woodwork, tall columns, and prominent roof lines. Styling was often a blend of Greek Revival and local vernacular ranging from cottages to mansions. These have accounted for 17 distinct architectural styles along the Scenic Drive Historic District.

Two of the first major developers of Pass Christian were Edward Livingston and John Henderson.

In 1814, Livingston had purchased most of the peninsula of Pass Christian, and soon afterwards, built his home in the 500 block of East Scenic Drive. Edward Livingston was an early senator of Mississippi and a compatriot of Andrew Jackson and friend of Jean Lafitte. His brother, Robert Livingston, had negotiated the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Yet standing is the Livingston Oak (over 400 years old) at 533 East Scenic Drive. Having left his estate to his wife, Louise, she sold the remaining vast area of the peninsula to Henderson, Hughes and Shipman in 1836.



John Henderson Estate
This luxurious home was the residence of John and Louisa Henderson. It was built in 1839 centered in the 700 block of West Beach Boulevard which at that time was a predominant part of Henderson Point. The home was completely destroyed by Camille in 1969.

John Henderson and his son Elliot are credited with having developed Pass Christian as a Resort community. Henderson Point and Henderson Avenue are named for the benefactor who also provided the land for the St. Louis Cemetery owned by the Trinity Episcopal Church.

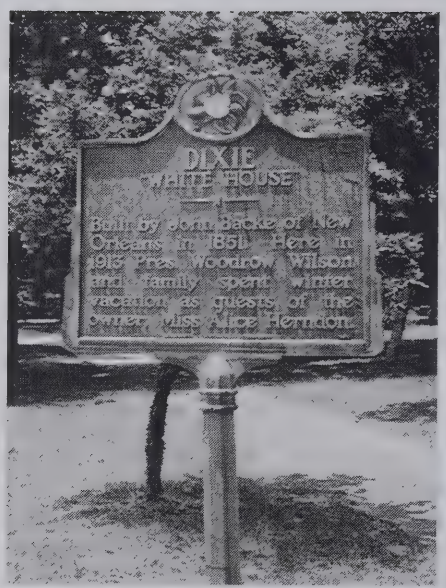
Ossian Hall (1849 - 1969)
The elegant Ossian Hall was a beautiful mansion located in the Beach Hurst area of Pass Christian. Located at East Beach Drive, it was built in 1849 by Seth Guion as a Greek Revival plantation type home.

During the two years of 1849 and 1850, sixty new cottages were built. Some of the residents started cultivation and even produced their own wines from their own grape orchards. One of these men, Alfred Davis, became a well known wine producer from his scuppernong grape. Before the turn of the century, in 1895, R. McIntosh, was a saloon-keeper who was considered a connoisseur of liquors and cigars. He owned and named his tavern "*The Sazerac*" after the Royal Street famed Sazerac Saloon in New Orleans and he was proud to equal its quality of drinks and service. The McIntosh tavern was located on First Street (now Scenic Drive) during the 1880s. *The Sazerac* in Pass Christian was a great success because it maintained a large inventory of imported wines, liqueurs, cordials, and choice liquors from all over. The bar-keep also served the famed local Scuppernong Wine produced by Colonel Davis' winery.

In 1838, Pass Christian was incorporated as a City, and in 1841, Harrison County was formed in its present boundaries having derived its name from then president elect, William Henry Harrison.

During the summer of 1847, a reporting from the "*Daily Delta*" of New Orleans, stated, "There are a good number of private residences and villas there, and many staid and solemn people who are perfectly satisfied to sit in their balconies, to smoke their Victorias, curse their appetites, and playout in their imaginations numerous little fishing parties."

By 1860, the population for Harrison County was 5000 in addition to 1000 slaves, and Pass Christian was known as the Queen City of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. At that time, a continuing stream of immigrants and adventurers from the Carolinas and Georgia were settling the Gulf seaboard.



The Dixie White House (1851 - 1969)
Another famous elegant home was the Dixie White House. It was named as such because of the significant number of former U.S. presidents who had spent vacation time as guests. These included Ulysses Grant, Teddy Roosevelt, and others, but the most famous visit was by President Woodrow Wilson who arrived the winter of 1912.

Reflections which still remain true:

Following the Civil War, excerpts from letters printed in the New Orleans Times-Democrat described the sentiments of the people who visited the "Pass" during its resurgence of activity.

- "Its groves of oaks and magnolias and its surrounding forests of pine are covered with perennial verdure. Their evergreen foliage produces the impression that one is in the midst of a region of perpetual summer; and this impression is not far wrong as the climate is so mild that roses and violets bloom through the short winter."

- "In the drive along the sea . . . the tourist sees a long succession of luxurious residences in park-like grounds; extensive boarding-houses with rustic benches scattered along the flower-bordered and shrubbery-shaded walks; and hundreds of pretty cottages with hammocks swinging lazily."
- "The numerous fishing and promenade piers, pagoda-ornamented and projecting into the Sound are used for fishing or moonlight flirting, according to the bait used. The waters are more frequented by Spanish mackerel, the famous pompano, the shoal loving flounder . . . frequently speared by pleasure parties."
- "The shapely hulls of vessels lying at anchorage . . . show that boating and yachting are among the liberally patronized amusements here."
- "Sailing excursions out to the islands and around through the Bay are the most popular amusements. One of the favorite excursion points is a great shell mound on the banks of the Wolf River."
- "Immediately in front of Pass Christian is one of the largest oyster beds in this portion of the Gulf. A fleet of 40 or 50 is busy collecting these inexhaustible stores of seafood."
- "The sea-shooting on the nearest islands is fine, ducks, geese, curlew and snipe being found in abundance. Quail shooting is fair. Splendid deer and turkey shooting is enjoyed by camping parties."
- "It could be hardly otherwise here, where the soil may laugh up its harvests of luscious fruits and delicious vegetables to the tickling of the hoe, and the sea gives up its miraculous Galilean profusion of fishes."
- "In summer it is a scene of perfect rest, languorous, delicious siesta-inviting rest; lulled by the tuneful rhythm of ripples breaking on the sandy beach and sweetened by the soft sea breeze that comes stealing over the soothed senses, fresh and pregnant, as if it were breathed form the amorous mouth of Aphrodite."
- "In winter it is a picture of blue skies and green groves, bending and waving the south wind."

After 1865, newly erected houses were usually larger and often featured hipped or gambrel roofs with inset dormers. As years passed, Pass Christian residents showed an increased tendency to hire architects to design or to re-design their homes. Colonial Revival architecture became popular in endeavoring to be homogenous with the older structures.

Nearly all of the homes along Scenic Drive have historic architectural characteristics for which they are registered in the National Register of Historic Places.

Pass Christian -- Significant Dates

1811, Jan 25, Gen Wade Hampton ordered 200 U.S. troops to the Pass followed by British Gen. James Wilkinson arriving with 800 British troops and 14 ships

1811, Dec 14, Mobile County divided into Hancock, Jackson and Mobile

1812, Hancock County formed on Dec 14, from Pearl River to Bay of Biloxi

1812, Jun, War of 1812, ended in 1815

1813, Apr, American Gen Wilkinson took Mobile

1813, Aug, Creeks incited by Spanish killed 500 settlers at Fort Mims Massacre

1814, Mar 27, Andrew Jackson led a contingent of Mississippi and Tennessee militia against Creek Indians at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend

1814, Sep, Jackson headed the Seventh Military District (MS, LA, and TN), he defeated the British at Mobile and at Pensacola

1814, Dec 1, Jackson arrived at New Orleans to prepare defenses against the British

1814, Juan Cuevas at Cat Island was captured by the British, he escaped to the Rigolets to warn the Americans of the English approach.

1814, Edward Livingston purchased the 17,084 Arpents Pass Christian from Pellerin (purchased for $7000 of monies he was paid by Jean Lafitte)

1814, Dec 13, Lt Tac Jones delayed the British armada from Pass Christian to the Regolets

1815, Jan 8, Battle of New Orleans, the victory resulted in the polyglot of Gulf Coast inhabitants becoming Americans and commencing the Great Migration

1817, Mississippi Statehood

1827, Schooner service established between New Orleans and Mobile

1830, Indian Removal Act, Trail of Tears

1830, Pass population was 1,962

1831, Lighthouses built at Pass and Cat Island

1831, Pass Christian Hotel built

1834, Freed Negro, Charlot Asmard's Will, leaving balance of original 800 Arpents of downtown to Family and heirs

1835, Charlot Asmard died

1836, Jan, Edward Livingston's Will to wife Louisa granted remainder of original 17,084 arpents

Even though some homes are small and may seem insignificant by comparison to the mansions which are also located in the Historic District, each is treated with equal deference for its preservation of Historic value. Established ruling guidelines were designed to protect all genuine historic structures from obliteration from their original architectural design. These homes are regulated by the Pass Christian Historic Preservation Commission and are also monitored by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Earliest Homes
The Ballymere is registered as being the oldest home in Pass Christian, although there are other homes which also sustain parts of early history, either by way of a preserved room or two or having remaining foundations beneath the homes. The Ballymere is a Colonial Revival dwelling having as its nucleus an early two-room Creole cottage with nogging construction, double brick, and plastered inside and out. Enlargements were performed in 1853 and in 1928.

Vernacular Greek Revival cottages were indigenous to the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast, both before and after the Civil War. A typical galleried French colonial cottage was characterized by its "T-shaped" floor plan with a gallery that encircled around the arms of the "T" and the main body of the building.

Settlers on the Gulf Coast developed this method of construction in order to maximize the capture of breezes and to provide ample porch space for escaping the sun's direct heat during different times of the day. The fact that this is the very same basic design for Jefferson Davis' *Beauvoir*, demonstrates that it was practical for use in mansions as well as smaller cottages. Although once quite numerous, a large percentage of these houses were prevalent along the Gulf Coast. Unfortunately, in some situations, architectural heritage has been destroyed or remodeled beyond recognition making the ones remaining both rare and significant. **It is for this reason that Pass Christian's Scenic Drive is unique.**

There are more individual homes along the full extent of the Pass Christian Historic District which are listed in the National Registry, than any other community along the Coast. The original historic values of the "Pass" are subtly preserved from diminution and yet sustained in continued prominence. Many of the owners have "open house" during seasons of Annual Pilgrimages, thereby bringing back memories of its prime as Queen City of the Coast.

Saucier-Pratt House

This home is also called the *Union Quarters*, and sometimes the Frank Wharton home. It is an impressive two-story Greek Revival dwelling. This home was built by Pierre Saucier in 1855. He had 14 children, one of whom was Anatol Joseph Saucier who married Mary Toulme of Bay St. Louis. During the Civil War, in April 1862, Federal troops landed at Pass Christian and the officers were billeted at the Saucier home. Mary had hidden her infant son, Anatol Paul, in the attic until she was able to determine that the troops meant no harm. However, when she was requested to play her piano, in defiance, she played the "Bonnie Blue Flag", which was then considered a Rebel battle tune.

During the 1880s and 1890s this beautiful mansion was occupied by Mrs. Louise Bidwell who also owned and managed her deceased husband's properties in New Orleans, including the famous St. Charles Theatre, the Academy of Music and the Phoenix House. When she took residence at the Saucier home, she built the longest pier in the Pass, which extended out into the Sound. She was well known as an expert *fisher*. In one day at the Wolf River, she had 94 fish in her catch, which consisted mostly of red fish and green trout.

This is a reminder of a lifestyle which lasted for better than a hundred years. It was a way of life that thrived on luxury, peacefulness, and graciousness. The nostalgia for that lifestyle is still mimicked today. Many of the mansions have also preserved or restored the outbuildings which usually had a Garconniere, or servant quarters which in time were used as Bachelor quarters or Guest houses. Also predominant were gazebos and "Shoo-Flies". A shoo-fly was usually built around a large live oak for its shade and the platform was raised from the ground as much as ten feet or more in order to optimize the breezes off the beach and to reach above mosquito habitation levels. These platforms were decorated with a lattice facade and usually painted white.

This is where the livin' is easy. Where tea and mint juleps are specially proffered only to personal friends of choice. Where the enchantment of plantation life is manifested in continued glory. Where a persevering spirit for past heritage is mandated and upheld as inviolate. Where even the former newcomers and outsiders have adapted proudly to original Southern Traditions.

Pass Christian – Significant Dates

1836, Dec, Louisa Livingston sold much of Pass peninsula to John Henderson, Charles Shipman and David Hughes

1837, Trail of Tears, Creeks stayed several months at the Pass, Chief Moniac buried

1838, Pass Christian chartered as a Town, along with Bay St Louis and Biloxi

1838, Pass Christian Downtown area burned

1839, Dec 27, Post Office established

1839, John Henderson, et al, platted and sub-divided the Pass peninsula for land development and lot sales

1839, First Steamboats came into use

1841, Feb 5, Harrison County formed from Hancock and Jackson, July 5 first County Board meeting held at Mississippi City, the County seat

1842, Pass Road from Biloxi to the Pass made a County Road

1843, Night patrol Captain instituted by County, appointed W.M. Mosely followed by F.B. Hiern and later Ely Seph

1843, Land acquired from Edward Saucier for Catholic Church, later returned

1844, First Roman Catholic Mission Church built by Father Labbe

1846, Mississippi Public School Act

1846-1848, Mexican War, Gen Zachary Taylor

1847, First recorded Catholic Baptisms administered by Father Buteux

1848, City boundaries expanded

1849, Trinity Episcopal Church built

1849, Birth of Yachting on the Gulf started at Montgomery's Pass Christian Hotel. It was second in the nation, first in the South

1849-50, More than sixty new cottages built along Beach front

1850, Catholic cemetery established

1851, First, Catholic Parish Church built by Father Guerard, first Pastor

1852, City boundaries expanded

1853, Hancock Courthouse in Gainsville burned

1853, first new yellow fever case in the Pass

1855, John Henderson Will to wife and sons

1858, Jan, Louisa Henderson Will to daughter, Julia and son Elliot

1858, Apr, City Ordinances revised and printed, street names included

1860, N. Bohn started men's clothing store

1861-1865, Civil War

Pass Christian is also home to many of the Majestic Giant Live Oaks along the Coast. Many of these oaks, including magnolias, can be closely observed while driving slowly along tree-lined Scenic Drive. A large number of these Majestic Oaks are aged greater than 300 years.

The "Pass", citing from *The Gulf Coast of Mississippi*, Nola Nance Oliver states that, "God wafts the breath of this favored Southland to the frozen North to show them that summer lives. The thrifty inhabitants send the message northward in luscious fruits and fragrant blossoms that thrive all year on the coast. Here the treasures of earth, sea and sky abound."

The passive beauty of the area and the graciousness of its people emanates a spiritual grace filled with unshakable hope for each new day of adventure.

The "Pass" has its very own unique qualities. It is for this reason that so many have journeyed to make their quest. Many of the home owners access their dwellings only for week-ends or summer get-away facilities. However, much like tourists, the result is that they never penetrate past the facade. Only in everyday living and meeting the permanent citizens can one feel the fullness and rich beauty which is omnisciently offered. One need only visit the merchants shops, or dine at any of the restaurants, or inquire at any of the service offices; to find ingratiating owners and personnel eager to welcome a new person's advent as well as the everyday passerby.

Some say the Legacy of the "Pass" permeates a tranquility that no other community on the Gulf Coast can offer. Others claim the mystique of Pass Christian is imbued by its transcendental ambiance. Everyone affirms that there is an essence of feeling that is indescribably magnificent.

During 1999, not only will the Coast be celebrating its Tercentennial, but so will Pass Christian in commemorating the advent of Iberville and Bienville upon these shores in 1699. Since those first explorations, tourists have continued to visit this unique small coastal city which has managed to maintain its unpretentious serenity and beauty throughout its fabulous history.

o o o

The Pass Social Club

The century old writings of M.J. Crawford's reminiscences during his tenure as manager of the Mexican Gulf Hotel in 1882 are very engrossing and make delighful reading. He proceeds to describe the Social Club in which he was initiated. All of the gentlemen in his recounting, presumably lived in cottages along the beachfront.

- "But not withstanding all my trials and troubles in that delightful place I had a thoroughly good time between the seasons. The town contained some eighteen hundred inhabitants, twelve hundred of them were colored. There was a small select society of white people whom, before the war were wealthy owners of plantations, but were then reduced to small incomes. A pleasant, kindly set were they of aristocratic descent and breeding. Punctilious in all the observances of good manners themselves they expected the same of all who came in contact with them."

- "There were about a dozen elderly gentlemen who constituted a small club. I was admitted as a member to this charmed circle. Our club room was a small shack that hung over the water, standing on piles. At 12 noon, a quorum being present, we sat down to a table and played "whiskey poker" for an hour. Then we solemnly adjourned to "Nicks" saloon across the way and played the real thing. Those old fellows "stung" me many a time good and plenty."

- "In their way these gentlemen were all remarkable for their characteristics. Dr. Le Roux, a French doctor, a true Gascon amused everybody by the stories of the wonderful cures that he had effected. Dr. Wilkinson, a fine gentleman of the old school, the soul of honor and a firm friend, was liked by everybody. His father was a distinguished general in the early Louisiana wars. He was a skillful doctor, but had grown too old for the regular routine which his profession demanded and had retired to the Pass with his wife and daughter."

- "Colonel Nixon, formerly an editor of the New Orleans Picayune was one of the charter members, a whole-souled gentleman who strictly believed in the code of honor. He as well as Dr. Wilkinson had been often on the field as principals in duels and had served as seconds scores of times. Dr. Wilkinson, on one memorable occasion in which I was interested, told me that he invariably tried to bring about a reconciliation between the contending parties of whom he was one of

"Whiskey Poker"
This group of young men look like they made their win at "Whiskey Poker".

The Little Theatre
In the 1850s, the summer residents formed a Little Theatre which they called *"Entre Nous"*. The first play put on was a comedy billed as the *Marble Statue*. The leading man and the gentleman cast as the villain had a dispute which led to a challenge to duel, but was forestalled amicably by their selected seconds.

the seconds, and had succeeded in many instances in preventing a resort to arms."

- "Colonel Thornton, the druggist of the place, had a distinguished career. He was the last man to oppose the secession of the state of Mississippi from the Union, and finding his efforts unavailing, he joined the Confederate Army and fought heroically for the South. A genial, kindly man, reserved and dignified in bearing, he commanded the respect of all those who had the good fortune to know him."

- "Colonel Davis was a large cotton planter, whose plantations extended for miles along the banks of the Mississippi near Natchez. He owned a large tract of land some five or six miles inland. He had established there a vineyard for the cultivation of scuppernong grapes. This grape is only adopted for the making of wine. The Colonel had imported to this country, from Italy, some twenty families and housed and fed them on his country estate. They were an illiterate lot who knew no language but their own, but they thoroughly understood the cultivation of the grape and the manufacture of wine."

Nostalgic Episodes from 1900 to 1930

The following accounts were captured on audio tapes during 1976 and were transcribed to typed form by Mrs. Betty Carlin of the Pass Christian Historical Society.

- The Brandt family home had burned down in 1917 and they moved into one of the little shacks next door to the old library. Another member of the family owned four little shotgun houses. The old school house had two teachers, Miss Nannie Sutter taught first grade and Miss Emma Walters taught all the rest of the grades. The school building was an old wooden building standing atop high pillars at 110 W. Second Street. *by Mrs. Mary E. Brandt*

- Across from the Town Library was the Air Dome Theater. Sam Taylor operated it as an open air picture show with silent movies. Miss Emma Schorr would play the piano with great emotion. Previous movie places were located on Second St. and at Hiern and Scenic. *by Miss Claire Knost*

Parnell McKay, Publisher -- "Pass Christian Tarpon-Beacon"

The Coast Beacon newspaper had been published in Pass Christian since 1881. One of its owners, E.J. Adam, operated a printing press at his home on Scenic Drive. He sold the *Beacon* and later started the *Tarpon*. Parnell McKay, Sr. purchased the *Tarpon* from E.J. Adam and later that year acquired the faltering *Beacon*. The two newspapers merged to become the Pass Christian Tarpon-Beacon.

The local paper was sustained until its final issue on October 11, 1990. Without celebration, in its 110th year of publication and ending four generations of dedication to the journalistic unfolding in the chronicles of history of Pass Christian and the spirited citizens of the community. The McKay family can be heralded for having produced the "Tarpon-Beacon" which was the longest running periodical on the Coast and had the distinction of being the first daily newspaper in south Mississippi.

• The Rhodes Trade Palace now the VFW was owned by then Mayor Charles M. Rhodes. The family lived upstairs and the store was downstairs. In the back there was a shed where the country people would spend three or four days. They would bring in wool and farm produce and trade for dry goods which arrived by schooners and steam boats. They brought their wool in wagons with tarpaulins covering them. Their oxen and horses were kept back by the railroad. *by Mrs. Margaret C. Farrell*

• Besides Willie Jones, the "Oysterman from Pass Christian", there was a peddler who the locals called *Rain in the Face* who sold crabs for a penny each as he would call out "Crab Bo-Boy-y-y". *by Mrs Justine P. Kuhn.*

• A Free Negro by the name of Charlot owned a house which was located on Scenic Drive. Charlot Asmar actually had been deeded all of the property comprising downtown Pass Christian from a little west of Market Avenue to a little east of Seal Avenue from the Beach to Portage. Following the 1915 Hurricane, Edgar Bohn bought the T.V. Courtenay beach property where the damaged Store was located and moved the Charlot house to it. He later moved it back to its original location in the 500 block. *by Mr. Ad Lang, Sr.*

The ensuing historical tid-bits come from interviews with Tom and John Parker, sons of former Governor John Parker, Sr. who resided on West Beach at their home from 1900 onwards and later at their estate *Windy Hill* at DeLisle.

• Mr Sam Heaslip used to come over and sail out two or three evenings a week in the moonlight to Cat Island to fish in the surf. The next morning he would catch the Coast train back to New Orleans. He had a darkie working for him called "Old Mose", who was also a good fisherman. Mr. Sam loved to drink and he had a few drinks one night and got sleepy as they were sailing back, so he told Old Mose, there's a star. You stay right on that star and take the boat in." But Mose went to sleep too. When he woke up he shook Mr Heaslip and said, "Marse Sam, I just passed that star. Give me another one to go by."

• Father Sorin approached Governor Parker at DeLisle and claimed he needed some money. He said, "They're going to make me a canon in the church. I wonder why they're going to make me a canon?"

Pass Christian -- Significant Dates

1861, Mississippi secession
1862, Federal ships fired upon PC, Bedsheet Surrender, Officers stayed at Union Hdq, lost PC Battle Flag
1865, PC Hotel purchased by Christian Brothers for a Boys' College
1866, The Pass Christian Hotel added a dome when it became Christian Brothers College
1866, End of Mississippi insurection period
1866, 30 sawmills were in operation by Spring throughout the Coast
1867, Yellow fever killed 10 Catholic Brothers and many townfolk
1870, Jan 11, Sisters of Mercy started St Joseph's Academy for Girls (Second in Diocese)
1870, Feb, end of Reconstruction Era, Mississippi Congressional representation was restored in Washington
1870, Sisters of Mercy started St. Joseph Schools
1870, Nov 21, L&N (Mobile and NO) Railroad established along the Coast providing passenger and freight service
1871, Railroad engine and cars crashed into Bay due to piles eaten by marine borers (Toredos)
1873, French Oyster Company opened on Front St. by Albert French
1875, Christian Brothers college closed due to Yellow Fever
1876, Pass Christian Hotel (Christian Brothers College) burned down
1876, St. Paul's Church burned down
1877, Pass Christian Downtown area burned
1877, L&N acquired the Mobile N.O. R.R.
1878, Yellow Fever epidemic
1878, Pass was first to use oyster and clam shells for roadway topping
1879, New, Second Catholic Church opened, dedicated to St. Paul
1879, John McGuinty donated land for a road to the West End RR Station
1880, Gulf Coast Beacon first publication, Gen. J.R. Davis publisher
1880, May 8, Daily Commuter train began run from Ocean Springs to N.O.
1880, Major General Wm S Harney, a Union officer, acquired Beaulieu (Dixie White House), entertained Ulyses S. Grant
1882, New City Charter
1882, St. Joseph's School combined for Boys and Girls

My dad replied, "Because you have performed so many shotgun weddings." . . . Father Sorin served the Parish for more than 50 years. He claimed that the well behind the Our Lady of Good Hope Church in DeLisle beckoned people from all over who would come to bathe in the spring waters in order to rid themselves of rheumatism. In another story, . . . Father Sorin would call intermission to go out to feed his chickens in the middle of mass.

John Parker, Jr.
Son of Louisiana Gov. John Parker, John, Jr. and his brother, Tom, spent a lot of time casting nets from the wharves that ran out to the Gulf.

- Edgar Monroe had been having a lot of trouble at his place with the springs. "They've got a lot of natural springs there. He was complaining because he thought he had a leak in the water line, but he found out that it was a natural spring. At that time there were a lot of natural springs that started spurting from the front lawns.

- John Parker Jr. was the president of a local stock group that was called the *Club on Wheels* which bought a private club car which they named "Beauvoir". A contract was made with the Railroad company to hitch the car behind the daily train run. The stock holders also built a shed at the L&N tracks to house it during the winter. It ran from April until October being picked up by the daily train each morning at 7:10 and was separated each evening at 5:10 pm.

- When automobiles appeared in the Pass they were brought in by rail because there were no roads between the Coast and New Orleans. The first roads for autos went from the Coast through Baton Rouge to get to New Orleans. Roads to New Orleans weren't built until ferry boats were established across the Bay, the Rigolets, the Chef Menteur, and other rivers such as the Pearl.

Unwavering Visionary of the Pass

Albert Aschaffenburg, like many others, fell in love with the Pass and wanted to redevelop the greatness of its past. He had a vision to bring back the tourist trade by establishing the Pass as a winter resort for Northerners and a summer playground once more for Orleanians. He first visited the Pass beginning in 1905 and engaged Frank Wittmann to build the family home in the 600 block of E. Scenic Drive. He organized the Bayou Portage Fishing and Hunting Club in 1912. He had purchased the raw land and built a camp on piling which provided a pier for boats to land and tie up.

In 1915, he promoted a Water Carnival with tournaments in motor boating, sail boating, paddle boating and swimming contests. The Regatta was held in July and known as the Bayou Portage Water Festival. It was a huge success bringing many participants, visitors and tourists together. The evening concluded with a gala ball and dance at the Mexican Gulf Hotel.

Bayou Portage
The larger opening to the Bay St. Louis Bay was sometimes reported to be a Bay in itself and called Bay of the Portage with the northern tributary being called Bayou Portage or Bayou Felix and the southern tributary called Bayou Johnson or, earlier, called Brickhouse Bayou.

In March of 1915, Aschaffenburg acquired the property from the Beach to the railroad tracks comprising the present War Memorial Park. His plans were to build a subdivision development complete with tennis courts, a playground, and a passenger shelter at the Railroad Depot.

This ambition was disrupted by the Hurricane that year which devastated the entire Coast.

On another occasion, Aschaffenburg approached the then Governor John Parker of Louisiana to provide convict labor to build a road across the marsh areas from New Orleans to the Pass. Ignoring negative statements from engineers regarding feasibility, he proved that the marsh sub-surface was constituted of hard clay which would permit a roadway once the marsh area was scooped away. Pursuing his ideas, he formed the *Motor League of Louisiana* which sponsored the road construction.

Below: These bayous are excellent for water skiing as seen with John Ellis, III turning a spray.

Pass Christian -- Significant Dates1882, Sullivan vs Ryan fight at Mississippi City, Sullivan reportedly trained at the Pass
1883, Mexican Gulf Hotel opened, built by Gen. George Sherman
1884, First Artesian well dug in east Pass by John T. Hardie
1884, Wolf Town name changed to DeLisle with opening of Post Office
1884, Pass town boundaries expanded
1885, New City Hall established, built by Fred Sutter
1888, First Town water system
1890, M.J. Crawford, manager of Mexican Gulf Hotel wrote *Reminiscences of 1880s*
1893, Town Library started by the Ladie's Library Association
1893, Pass Christian Yacht Club began with revival of two regattas
1895, Charles L. Dyer wrote *Along the Gulf*, L&N Railroad stops
1895, Street ordinance naming Second, Gulf (Hwy 90), Menge, Fleitas, Seal and Boisdore.
1895-1920s, Street car from Biloxi to Pass along the Beach front (2nd St. in the Pass)
1896, Rev. Father R.J. Sorin a native of France became Pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope in DeLisle
1897, Yellow Fever epidemic
1898, Gulfport incorporated
1898, Spanish American War
1899, Oct, Thirty telephones installed at Pass
1902, Hancock Bank opened Pass branch
1904, Elliot Henderson promoted land sales in Henderson Point and Pass Christian Iles
1904, Dunbar, Lopez, Dukate began seafood plant
1905, Town Library building purchased by Ladies's Library Association
1905, Long Beach incorporated
1908, Street Car line established to Biloxi
1908, First Electric Lights -- 132 installed
1911, St. Philomena's Catholic Church (now Mother of Mercy) dedicated
1912, 6 mph speed limit for motor vehicles
1912, City limits extended to Boisdore on west and present Long Beach on east
1912, Woodrow Wilson visited the Pass for the Winter on Christmas Day, stayed at Beaulieu
1915, June, Teddy Roosevelt visited the Pass as a guest of John Parker (former LA Governor)

He further volunteered to personally supervise the passageway from New Orleans to the Chef Menteur. Ferry services were provided at the Rigolets and the Chef until replacement bridges were erected. The beach road already existed from Waveland to Bay St. Louis and in 1928 the wooden Bay Bridge eliminated the ferry service from the Point to Bay St. Louis.

In the interest of providing a Public Library, he lobbied the City officials to apply for a Carnegie Grant which would pay for the construction of a Public Library facility. He ascertained that any community that would administer the program would be eligible for free money.

Albert Aschaffenburg also brought together a group of investors from New Orleans who bought and remodeled the Mexican Gulf Hotel in 1917, but it burned down on January 8, 1918.

With Aschaffenburg's untimely death in January of 1918, the visions were lost with the passing of the *Visionary*.

Shades of Washington

According to Coast Historian, Nap Cassibry, Henry Washington, a land surveyor and map maker during the early 1800s, was possibly a nephew of George Washington. One of the properties he surveyed was the Pellerin deed which encompassed the whole peninsula of Pass Christian. A Geodetic map is on file at the Pass Christian Historical Association showing that vast area.

In 1845, Colonel Fairfax Washington, whose grandfather, Warner Washington, was a close relative of George Washington, settled in Handsboro, an early settlement now located within the corporate limits of Gulfport. He was a prosperous farmer.

A marker denoting the grave site of Frances Parke Lewis Butler, great, granddaughter of Martha Washington and great niece of General George Washington was unveiled in ceremonies at the Trinity Episcopal Church grounds in Pass Christian.

Standing in as the official family honoree was Richard Morgan of Gulfport, himself, a direct descendant of John Washington, an uncle of General George Washington. John Washington was a prominent physician in the Pass during the 1890s.

Unveiling of the marker took place on July 21, 1976 at Trinity Park grounds facing U.S. Highway 90. Mrs. Butler was born November 27, 1797 and died June 30, 1875 in Pass Christian where she had been a resident for many years.

The historical marker was donated by the Gulf Coast Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Pass Christian Bicentennial Commission.

The Pass Christian Garden Club and the DAR chapter assisted in the restoration of the historic site following damages incurred by Hurricane Camille in 1969. E. Davis McCutchon, president of the Bicentennial Commission, was Master of Ceremonies. Jimmy Cutrell, minister of music for the First Baptist Church of Gulfport, was in charge of music. M. James Stevens, president of the Mississippi Coast Historical and Genealogical Society, was the featured speaker to memorialize Mrs. Butler.

After Camille, many of the numerous metal markers previously on display along U.S. Highway 90, were lost and have not been replaced. Some are still kept in the Municipal storage, while others have been permanently lost to theft. The Trinity Marker was lost for several years but was returned with some damage after being found.

A Camellia bush planted in front of the former Butler home still blooms on Scenic Drive. Just as the small cuts were brought to her home from Mount Vernon, the seeds of George and Martha Washington were also brought to the Gulf Coast and the Pass. Among some of the blossoms are Mrs. Lawrence Yarbrough and Mrs. Richard Cromwell.

Of significance is a set of fire-place tools originally belonging to George Washington. These tools were brought to the Pass by the mysterious Lulu Watt, mistress of the Villa Karma, who presented them to John Lang. These tongs and accompanying shovel remain with the Lang family.

Duel in the Pass

Dueling under the oaks in satisfying an "Affaire d'Honneur" was a natural part of Pass Christian's early history in keeping with a tradition which lasted for almost a hundred years. In fact the original *Dueling Oaks*, are actually some of the very same live oaks which still stand in the Pass Christian highschool yard.

From the silence of the ground in Live Oak Cemetery rises a pinnacle, broken near the top and shrouded overhead by a draped cloth. The monument to the last duel fought in Pass Christian which ended in vanquishing a man's heart, his soul and his body; is all that remains in cold, white, marble stoneware with the inscription below dedicated to Michael Cuddy.

Pass Christian -- Significant Dates

1915, First Mardi Gras Parade
1915, Airplane landed at Oak street and the railroad at the playground
1915, The Lynn Castle Hotel burned down followed by the Magnolia Hotel (Miramar site) two weeks later
1915, Coast Hurricane
1917, Mexican Gulf Hotel burned down
1917, April, World War I
1917, First Fire Engine purchased
1918, Flu epidemic
1920, Garden Club organized
1921, Ferry service instituted at Bay from Henderson Point to Bay St. Louis
1923, Jun 13, Pass Chamber of Commerce organized
1924, Rotary Club chartered
1925, Japanese gardens built by R.S. Hecht
1926, Aug 7, First Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo, National Tarpon Tournament
1927, Grey Castle Hotel opened
1927, New Brick City Hall at Market Street
1928, Natural Gas was installed at the Pass
1928, Mar 28, Wooden Bay bridge opened to traffic
1929, Oct, Spanish Trail Motorcade from St. Augustine to San Diego arrived in the Pass
1929, stock market crash
1930, Pass Christian Carnival Association reorganized Mardi Gras
1930, Horace White donated land for City Park
1935, WPA projects started in the Pass
1937, First Spring Pilgrimage co-sponsored with New Orleans
1937, Jan 16, New Pass Christian High School formal opening
1937, Pass Yacht Club re-organized
1937, March 18, Skipperette Club organized with 26 members
1938, Knost Regatta organized
1938, Jaycee Chapter organized
1941, Dec 8, World War II
1942, Blackout curfew for duration of the War, utility poles painted white for night visibility
1942, Merchant Marines took over Inn-by-the-Sea at Henderson Point
1942, US Army took over Pine Hills Hotel complex at DeLisle
1943, segregation laws enacted in hotels and dining facilities

Pass Christian – Significant Dates
1943, Rhea Memorial Park given to the Trinity Church
1946, Feb 20, VFW chapter organized
1946, Wallace Walker promoted Henderson Point and Pass Christian Isles, purchased for back-taxes
1947, Jan 4, Memorial Park Playground dedicated
1947, Sep 19, Hurricane
1948, first parking meters, created contention between Mayor and Town Marshall
1950, Sand beach pumped in
1950, Garden Club reactivated
1952, Pass Christian Isle Golf Club began
1952, Oct 5, Miss America 1958, Mary Ann Mobley visits Pass
1953, July 26, PC Yacht Club purchased Canning Factory at Harbor location
1953, Aug 1, Four-lane concrete Bay bridge
1953, Nov 14, PC Isles Golf Club-House dedicated
1953, Dec 6, Coast Art Group held first meeting
1953, Dec 21, South lane of US Highway 90 opened
1954, Oct 17, Henderson Point/Heights Volun-teer Fire Dept - Fire Station dedicated
1955, Planning Commission created
1956, Pass Volunteer Fire Dept. chartered
1957, Aug 22, Memorial dedication to Yellow Fever clergy victims of 1867
1958, Feb 11, Knights of Columbus received Charter
1958, VFW acquired Fleitas Building for Headquarters
1958, Oct 7, Miss America - Mary Ann Mobley
1958, Dec 10, the first PC Chamber of Commerce Building dedicated at East Harbor
1961, May 25, Coast Guard Flotilla recieved Charter
1962, Vietnam War
1963, St Joseph's became St Paul's School
1964, May 4, St Paul Elementary School dedicated
1965, Miramar Nursing Lodge opened
1965, US World & News proclaimed 5-mile stretch of Scenic/Hwy90 third wealthiest street in the Nation, behind Wall St & Palm Beach, FL
1965, Sep 9, Hurricane Betsy

"In Memory of Michael Cuddy
a native of the County of Kilkenny, Ireland
and for many years
a highly respected merchant of New Orleans.
Died May 21st, 1856, aged 42 years."

It happened on May 22, 1856 pursuant to a volatile meeting of two businessmen from New Orleans. That following morning at half-past 7 a.m., the altercation resumed between E.W. Estlie of the firm of Estlie, Lee & Co. on Canal Street and M. Cuddy of Cuddy, Brown, & Co. on Camp Street. Each man had selected their "seconds", who earlier that morning went to the local militia armory to select dueling pistols, which they each carefully wrapped in napkins.

The pistols were then placed in the hands of each combatant, and ten paces were counted off slowly.

At the first firing, Estlie was slightly wounded, but with the second firing, Estlie's bullet was the messenger of death to his antagonist. Michael Cuddy never breathed again after receiving the ball. Now, only the pinnacle stands, casting its shadow upon the cold, damp church-yard. A towering pinnacle, with shorn off peak, makes a statement even today. Cuddy's life was interrupted and the marble monument is covered with a mantle of mystery.

On the evening before the duel, there was a gala celebration honoring debutantes at a "coming out" cotillion. The orchestra played delightful waltzes and the polkas were quite merry. Michael Cuddy had just finished cavorting on the dance floor with a young debutante of age 15 years. Estlie, having too many drinks, approached the young damsel.

This was the setting which resulted in a disturbance whereupon, both of the young men were asked to leave.

Japanese Gardens

Visits to the Middlegate Japanese Gardens included a tour through an authentic Japanese home resplendent in Oriental majesty. The sojourn was further complemented by being entertained in the adjacent Tea house and waterfall, which was offset by a beautiful sunken garden. By taking the path along the *Bamboo Walk*, the visitor was confronted by a costumed attendant pulling an imported Japanese jinricksha.

Ornamental lanterns were attached to cherry trees and wisteria vines. Everywhere below, one would find strategically located bronze or stone lilliputian monuments representing buddhist shrines. Also, there were granite pagodas, and century old images of oriental idols, and typically and faithfully reproduced Japanese household nymphs.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the gardens was the gigantic bronze statue of Buddha which was imported from the famous gardens of the great Daibutsu in Kamakura, Japan. This Buddha still remains and is recognized as one of the largest in the world as it sits majestically upon a 20 foot pedestal.

The visit was not complete without walking across the *Wishing Bridge* to peek into the shaded stream below in order to perceive the multitude of white and gold oriental carp. And nearby, one could sit by the *Pagoda Fountain* surrounded by a multitude of flowers which permeated magical scents which teased and lulled the guest into moods of meditative ambience.

Visitors were left facinated with a lasting impression, but even moreso were those who sustain a penchant for having a true garden spirit and a love for exotic beauty.

The Japanese Gardens were developed by Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Hecht of New Orleans. They developed their love for Japanese culture during their many visits to the Land of the Rising Sun and brought it home to their "Middlegate" estate at 520 West Scenic

Drive in Pass Christian. Mr. Hecht was also one of the founders of the International House in New Orleans.

The majestic gardens were designed to contain all of the traditional features of an original world famous Japanese garden with exquisite subtleties and delicate beauty. It was replete with tall cryptomerias, giant bamboo,dwarfed trees, azaleas, camelias, japonicas, and other flowering shrubs, all within the limited space of a few acres.

Remnants of these gardens can still be sited from Second Street between Clarence Avenue and Pine Street. Unfortunately, the original charm of the famous gardens was destroyed by the ravishes of Camille.

Inn by the Sea

The Inn-by-the-Sea was a delightful Hotel surrounded by cottages among the tall pines and moss hung live oaks basking beside the shores of the Gulf at Henderson Point. It was placed in the center of a beautifully landscaped 75-acre park fronting a private white-silver sand beach extending from the very edge of the patio to the emerald waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The very atmosphere of the Inn was charged with romantic intrigue of the *Spanish Main*, although promising all the creature comforts of the day in catering to the slightest wish of the vacationing family.

The Inn by the Sea
The 75-acre park had a full complex of buildings which served to shelter and entertain its many guests over the years. Exotic fowl with colorful plumed feathers roamed the gardens as well as imported tamed animals.

The former owners of the Inn, Mr. and Mrs. I. T. Rhea, had once reflected that, "to sit on the beach, to see the magnificent sunset, to hear the waves splash, and to reap the many natural amenities, such as: The bugle birds in the patio with their gold and black plumage, white cockatoos, parrots, and beautiful macaws, or going on a picnic in the piney woods, or to watch the glorious sunshine and to feel and taste the tang of salt air -- who could not forget their cares? Or to sail on the *Pussy Cat* or the *Queen of the Fleet*, or to take a cruise on the *Oneida* to the barrier islands and to take a plunge into the Gulf."

This was in 1920 before the Bay bridge was built. The ferry was still operating between the town of Bay St. Louis and the Point. Like the many other old hotels of the Pass, the "Big Depression" of the 30's made its toll.

With World War II, the Inn was taken over by the Merchant Marines as a training academy.

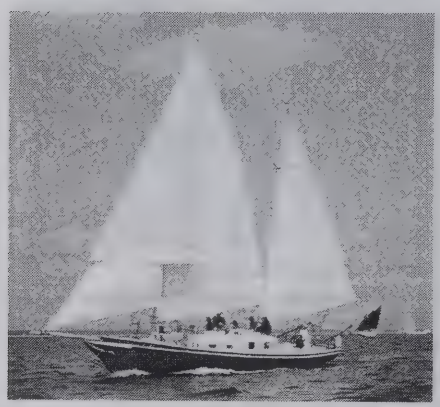
That same area now facilitates the $13,000,000 Gulfshore Baptist Assembly Mission. Since its groundbreaking ceremonies in 1972, Baptists from all over the country visit the educational ,nd religious retreat. In addit on to a large auditorium and conference facility, extensive dormitories house hundreds of students with separate living quarters for counselors.

Captain John McDonald
He skippered the **Queen of the Fleet** and is seen below next to a *Jew Fish* or sea-bass he caught at Tarpon Hole. It hung more than eight feet long and weighed 440 pounds.

Southern Yachting at Pass Christian

By 1830, New Orleans had discovered the Gulf Coast. Small family-owned hotels and boarding houses sprang up and elaborate homes were built. Steamboats plied the coast from Mobile to New Orleans, making scheduled stops at the small towns. . . . Tourism was born!

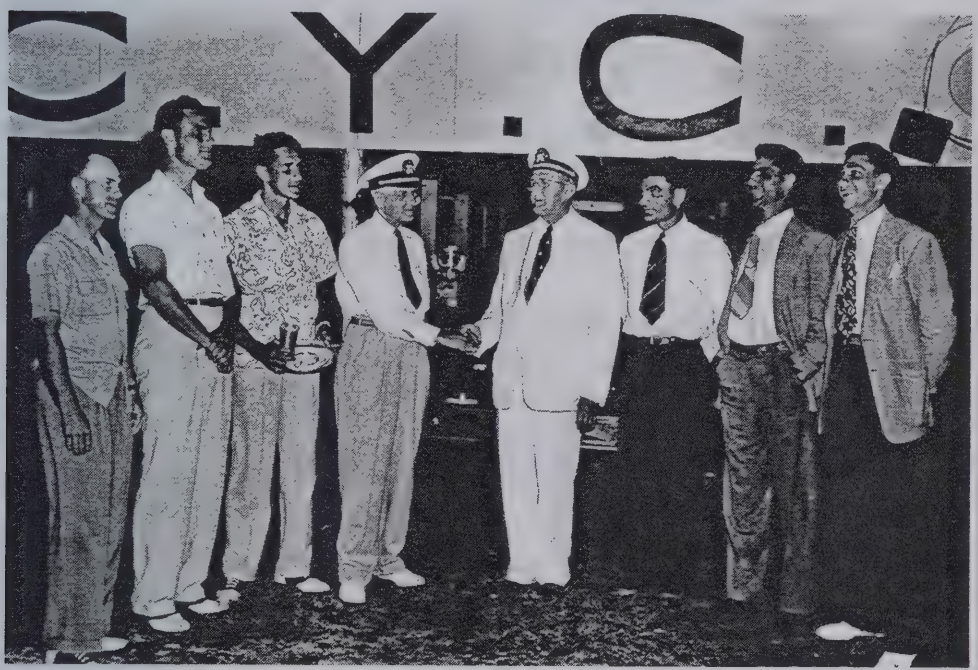
Pass Christian
Birthplace of Southern Yachting
Many regattas have been held in the Mississippi Sound off the shores of Pass Christian. Besides the local races, is the world famous Lipton Regatta which celebrated its 75th Anniversary at the PCYC in 1994, in commemoration of its Sportsman founder, Sir Thomas Lipton. *(Photo Courtesy Bill Kidd)*



When Pass Christian was incorporated in 1838, it was already famous for its gallant and gracious charm and the courteous service given to its summer guests and residents. That was the era when the "Pass" had nearly a hundred private piers jutting out a thousand feet into the Sound. The Pass Christian Hotel, having been built in 1831, was taken over by the then famous and affable R. H. Montgomery, who was its host from 1847 to 1855 and under whose adroit maneuvering the Southern Yacht Club was organized within its portals in 1849.

Yachting in the South was born at Pass Christian. The first regatta promoted by R.H. Montgomery, manager of the Pass Christian Hotel, was held on July 21, 1849. Citing a New Orleans' news article from the "Crescent" on that date, "*It was a gala day at the Pass. The quiet harbor was thronged with boats, gay with streamers, and manned by athletic crews...*" Responding to the challenge were a dozen contestants. The Stingaree Social Club of New Orleans had acquired a new cabin sloop, resulting in their qualifying for the 25 mile race. Twelve sailboats, representing as many towns, had lined up at the start of the triangular course. Although the Stingarees lost, coming in third, the *Eliza Riddle* was christened.

The *Flirt* of Biloxi won the silver pitcher, and the *Anna* of the "Pass" finished second. All had a wonderful time, and they ended the evening by organizing the Southern Regatta Club with Pass Christian as headquarters. The enthusiasm resulted in officers being elected the following summer, with Tom S. Dabney as its first president. The Southern Yacht Club of New Orleans originated from members of this association.



Former Mayor Sam Heaslip continued this sport in the Pass. As a past Commodore of the Southern Yacht Club of New Orleans and an early owner and operator of the Mexican Gulf Hotel, he helped organize the current Pass Christian Yacht Club in 1893. Joining with four other regional clubs, the Southern Gulf Coast Yachting Association was formed in 1901 and reorganized in 1920 as the Gulf Yachting Association. The first Pass Christian Yacht Club quarters was destroyed by the Hurricane of 1915.

The Club sponsored sail racing in the Sound as well as motor boat racing in Bayou Portage. Following the depression years, in 1937 the down-sized Club was reorganized by a group of local citizens meeting at the old red school house on Scènic Drive and Hiern Avenue. Bernard Knost was elected Commodore. The newly formed Skipperette Club voted Mrs. Peggy Gause as its Commodore. In 1938, the Knost Regatta for female skippers came into existence, honoring Bernard Knost, and has since continued as an annual event of the Pass Christian Yacht Club.

PCYC COMMODORES

1893, Com Sam F. Heaslip
Com John T. McDonald
Com Bernard Chotard
1928, Com Luther H. Barksdale
1929, Com J.M. Terrell
1932, Com Henry Roux
1933, Com Leo McDermott
1934, Com Henry Roux
1935, Com Henry Roux
1937, Com Bernard L. Knost
1938, Com Bernard L. Knost
1939, Com Fred A. Sutter
1940, Com Fred A. Sutter
1941, Com Cary E. Spence
1942, Com Jack E. Kerrigan
1943, Com Jack E. Kerrigan
1944, Com J.W. Terrell
1945, Com J.W. Terrell
1947, Com Charles B. Merrick
1948, Com Charles B. Merrick
1949, Com J.W. Terrell
1950, Com J.W. Terrell
1951, Com Arthur B. Tipping
1952, Com Arthur B. Tipping
1953, Com Jack E. Kerrigan
1954, Com Jack E. Kerrigan
1955, Com J. Barkley Witherspoon
1956, Com J. Barkley Witherspoon
1957, Com J.W. Terrell
1958, Com J.W. Terrell
1959, Com Burris Wood
1960, Com Burris Wood
1961, Com Gordon Bishop
1962, Com Gordon Bishop
1963, Com Wm. Perry Brown
1964, Com Wm. Perry Brown
1965, Com H.H. Hillyer
1966, Com H.H. Hillyer
1967, Com George W. Byrne, M.D.
1968, Com George E. Morse
1969, Com Charles Pearson
1970, Com Fernand J. Milhas
1971, Com John V. Dugan III
1972, Com Sydney Ellis, Jr.
1973, Com Michael S. Rafferty
1974, Com Elmer H. Scott
1975, Com Michael S. Rafferty
1976, Com Byron W. Stinson
1977, Com Abner Northrop, Jr.
1978, Com C.D. Taylor, Jr.
1978, Com Byron W. Stinson
1979, Com Steve McNair, Jr

1980, Com Steve McNair, Jr
1981, Com Donald M. Rogers
1982, Com William O. Rainnie
1983, Com Thomas C. Shellnut
1984, Com C. Randall Jones
1985, Com Donald D. Doyle
1986, Com Denby Garrison
1987, Com A.K. Northrop, Jr.
1988, Com James A. Williams
1989, Com Oliver S. Montagnet, Jr.
1990, Com Oliver S. Montagnet, Jr.
1991, Com William A Peneguy
1992, Com Jerry Pilcher
1993, Com Frank Allen
1994, Com Frnak Allen
1995, Com Shelly Colleen
1996, Com Harry Hammett
1997, Com Harry Hammett

Property was purchased south of Scenic Drive between Hiern Avenue and Market Street for a new clubhouse. The hurricane of 1947 caused some damages to it, followed by an expropriation in 1953 by the Mississippi Highway Department to build U.S. Highway 90.

On July 26, 1953, the Club celebrated its new location on the peninsula, jutting into the Gulf from the foot of Market Street. The man-made peninsula originated from previous oyster canneries which had dumped oyster shells for many years. A quonset hut, once used by the old Dunbar-Dukate canning company, was renovated into new quarters for the Yacht Club. In June of 1958, the Club negotiated a property and lease exchange with the City administration.

Then came August of 1969, when the old *Quonset Hut* was destroyed by Hurricane Camille, resulting in a temporary clubhouse being established in the then vacant Crescent Hotel (The Harbour Inn).

Ribbon cutting for the present Club took place on December 16, 1971. Its first addition took place in 1975 and expanded, renovated, and redecorated In 1987. Again, in '95 and '96, extensive renovations were made to the building and its docks. PCYC also sports a four-lane regulation swimming pool measuring 35 x 82 foot.

Lucien Piernas
Lucien worked the bars of the Gulf Club and the Yacht Club for many years. Until his retirement, he also was seen helping out at private house parties as the favorite bartender of the Pass.

Pass Christian Municipal Harbor

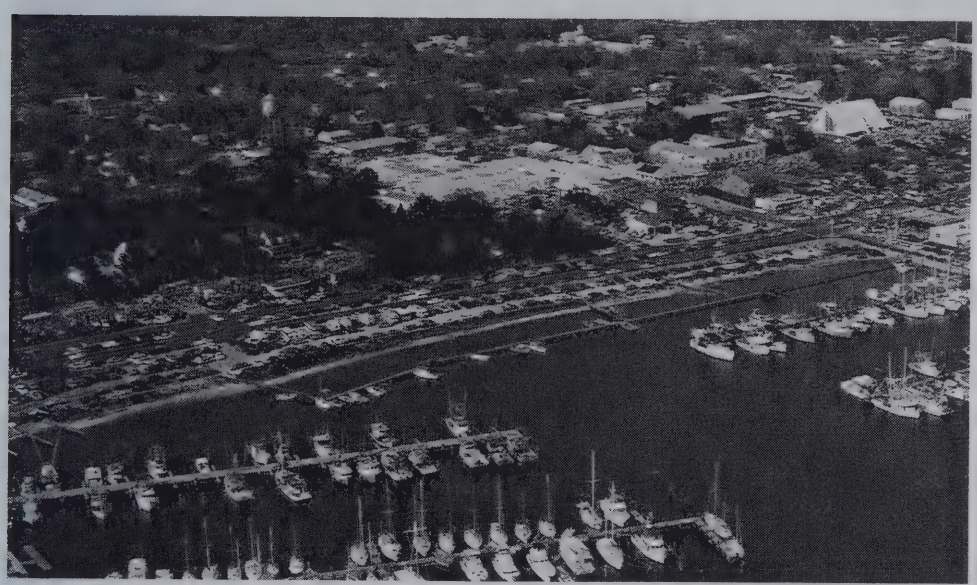
The water passage in the Sound has been called Pass Christian since the mid 1800s when Nicholas Christian Ladner settled at Cat Island. Prior to that it was called "*Passe aux Huitres*" by the early French explorers. Translation for the offshore "pass" was suitably named the "Oyster Pass". For hundreds of years, the numerous oyster reefs afforded a source of supply to the whole coastal region. In 1902, a Dunbar-Dukate seafood plant was built at the present site of the Pass Christian Yacht Club.

Access to the Factory was by way of a 1000 foot length wharf, jetting from shore to plant atop pilings. At night, the smaller commercial boats would tie-up to each other creating "raft-docks" anchored to the wharf. This was the first semblance of a harbor before the mud flats became dredged.

The Municipal Harbor was finally formalized in 1956 with the creation of a Harbor Commission in response to a new 1 mill revenue enactment established by the Harrison County Supervisors. Supporting the Commission was a Harbor Advisory Committee composed of representatives of the Yacht Club, fishers and packers.

In 1958, an 11-foot high, 350-foot long, concrete, breakwater wall was constructed into the Sound by the T.L. James Company. There are only two such concrete harbor walls in the World, the other is in Japan.

The Big Wall
The concrete breakwater serves to protect the more than 300 boats housed in the harbor as well as providing a ramp to fish from and to view the Mississippi Sound.



During the 60s, more rip-rap was dumped into the Sound, followed by dredging, which provided space for more piers and berths.

Following major repairs from "*Camille*" damages, the Pass Christian Municipal Harbor today is the most picturesque marina along the entire coast. Through matching funds programs, the City officials have coordinated with the "Harbor Master Plan" in offering a beautiful recreation area which is currently under renewed development with the completion of a children's park. The playground area will be complete with swings, see-saws, merry-go-rounds, barbecue-pits and three picnic shelters. Also provided are three drive-through parking areas surrounding the north end and east and west sides of the harbor. Spaces provide for a total of 220 automobiles and 100 vehicles with boat trailers, which have easy access to two boat ramps.

Safe Harbor
The serenity of the Marina is only disturbed by the small wakes made by cruising boats. Pictured is a Vietnamese trawler with a high bow.

Almost 1000 linear feet of public fishing is permitted on the two breakwalls, in addition to a sheltered fishing pavilion above piling. The Harbor consists of seven piers, four are assigned for pleasure craft and three for commercial vessels. There are 346 slips ranging in berth sizes from 31-feet to 84-feet, in addition to a skiff-pier providing 20 tie-ups. Services include, water, electricity, showers, restrooms, and a bait and fuel station. A vessel pump-out station is also available.

Justin J. Lassabe, Harbor Master, has assisted in the design of the new two-story Harbor Master office building which will provides a lower level public restroom facility.

On the eastern side, the Pass Christian Yacht Club is located at the site of the former Dunbar-Dukate Cannery and has its own parking area, boat launch and a private pier for 20 boats. Also, the city has provided space for a Department of Marine Resources field office. The combination of city, county, private and commercial sharing in the area is well balanced and favorably harmonious.

One of the famous festival events along the coast has been held at the Pass Christian Harbor. "Celebrate the Gulf" provides marine oriented educational exhibits and activities primarily focused for school children. Thousands of spectators participate at this festival event as well as the annual "Blessings of the Fleet".

Pass Oyster Reefs

The Pass Christian group of productive oyster beds have historically been documented on maps since D'Iberville and Bienville chartered these waters in 1699. Early maps of the area refer to the reefs and batures as *Passe aux Huîtres* (Oyster Pass).

There are nine principal reefs comprising an area of about twenty square miles. This group of reefs are the most important in the state, both in production and acreage. During the oyster seasons, as many as 150 fishing boats and tonging skiffs can be seen just off shore.

Some of major reefs in the Pass group are: the Pass Christian Tonging Reef, which is situated due south of the town from which it derives its name, and extends for a distance of one and one-half miles off shore. Its area is about one and one-half square miles.

Further west are the Henderson Point and Calico reefs which are positioned from one to two miles south of Henderson Point. The foundation of these reefs is of sticky mud and sand, with large quantities of shell fragments. Such a mixture has formed a firm foundation for the reef, and at the same time provides a considerable quantity of natural cultch. The combined areas of these reefs amount to about one square mile. Oysters taken from these reefs are superior to those taken from the Pass Christian Tonging Reef. Clustering is much less evident, and the oysters are of much better shape.

Pass Marianne Reef is nearly circular in form. It is an area of about two and one-half square miles. In years past, the Pass Marianne Lighthouse was located approximately in the center of the reef. The conditions of this reef are essentially the same as those found at the Square Handkerchief Reef.

Unloading at the Wharf
Oystermen would dredge the reefs and pile the oysters aboard their craft 'til nearly falling off the sides. Aside the Cannery wharf, the oysters were loaded onto metal bins which were shuttled by rail into the factory or to waiting seafood buyers.

Pass Christian -- Significant Dates
1967, Gus Stevens Restaurant at Henderson Point burned down
1969, Mar 17, First St. Patrick's Day Parade
1969, Aug 17, Hurricane Camille
1971, Jan 16, Jazz Funeral for Captain John Handy
1971, New Yacht Club dedicated
1971, Oct, Friends of the Library organized (chartered in 1972)
1971, Oct 21, World Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis visited
1971, Nov 14, Trinity Episcopal Church consecration ceremonies
1972, Third Catholic Parish Church dedicated
1972, Annie's Restaurant at the Point burned
1973, June, New Public Library opened
1973, Chamber of Commerce opened new building office at West Harbor
1974, Oct 27, Trinity Episcopal Church celebrated 125th Anniversary
1975, PC Historical Society reorganized
1975, St. Paul Catholic Church recieved the Lady of Guadelupe statue
1976, Jan 9, Bicentennial Celebrations, Re-enactment pageantry
1976, Jul 1, Groundbreaking for Baptist Assembly Complex at Henderson Point
1976, Jul 4, Bicentennial Celebrations at War Memorial
1977, Annual St Paul Seafood Festival reorganized
1981, Ter Chemicals, Inc, to opened
1981, Champion Shipyards, Inc added to Industrial Seaway
1982, Oct 14, Dupont Plant 3rd Anniversary visited by Gov. William Winter
1982, Historic Preservation Ordinance passed
1983, Sep 20, Kittiwake Baptist Church ground breaking services held
1995, First PCYC Female Commodore -- Shelly Colleen
1995, First VFW Female Commander -- Nita Favre
1995, St. Patrick's Day Parade re-organized
1995, Shopping Center opened at Henderson Avenue and Hwy 90
1996, Land purchase of Highway property fronting St. Paul Catholic Church
1997, Jubilee-3 Year for St. Paul Parish
1999, Tricentennial Celebrations

The Lighthouses

Pass Christian and Cat Island each had lighthouses constructed in 1831. Ashore at the "Pass", one lighthouse was located at present day City Hall. For much of the beacon's existence, the Keeper from 1844 to 1861 was Miss C. A. Hiern. It was built atop a shoreline ridge, which was fourteen feet above seaa level. The light tower was forty-two feet above high water and visible for twelve miles from ships passing in the Gulf. As all the other lights along the Coast, it too, was shut down during the Civil War. Following several failing attempts by city officials to cut down the privately owned trees obscuring sea vision, its discontinuance was ordered in 1882. This resulted in the property with the Light and the Keeper's residence being sold at auction, and soon afterwards dismantled.

At Cat Island, Juan Cuevas was the first lighthouse keeper and one of his eleven children, Ramon, followed his footsteps as Lightkeeper. A descendant, Franklin J. Cuevas, reported that upon the death of interim Lightkeeper Riley in 1839, Ramon not only took over the Lighthouse, but also Riley's Widow as his new bride. The Cat Island lighthouse was temporarily discontinued due to hurricane damages in 1860 and later shut-down orders were issued by the Confederates in 1861. Since the Lighthouses of the Mississippi Sound, including the waterways into Lake Borgne in Louisiana, were all constructed to meet the same specifications, components from the Cat Island lighthouse were sent out to replace broken parts in other lighthouses. Following the Civil War, the lighthouse was reconstructed on piling. During the years following 1900, the piling had to be shored up with rip-rap to secure its foundation from continued storm-wave action.

Both the Cat and the Pass lights were built along the same design, with white brick towers and with fourth-order lens visible for at least 12 miles. For a little more than fifty years, the lighthouse beacons served as illumination, reaching out radiantly beckoning to mariners and tourists arriving by way of the Gulf.

As reported by M. James Stevens, "The Pass Christian Light was the first Lighthouse erected on the Mississippi Coast mainland. Cat Island Light was built at the same time in 1831. Round Island Light was built in 1833. Biloxi Lighthouse was built in 1848, Ship Island in 1853, Pascagoula in 1854."

The Town Library

The "Town Library" was the first established library along the Coast between Mobile and New Orleans. It was first opened by the "Ladies' of the Town Library Association on February 21, 1893. The first president of the Association, Miss Isabelle Bowman Finley, promoted the beginning of the library by donating much of her own large library. Initially she would bring her books and leave them at the sundries store operated by her Aunt Carrie, where people would borrow them. Some of the ladies in the town would help out in keeping up with the books. It grew and grew and there got to be enough business that they organized it into a subscription library in 1905 and the first officers were elected.

The Library was initially supported by donations and a few bequests and fund raising "Tag Days", when young girls would sell the tags for 25 cents to the Tourists. It was one of the last subscription libraries in the country. A Subscription sold for $1.50 a year.

The quaint cottage as built in 1849, is located at 221 East Scenic Drive. It was purchased in 1905 and later moved rearward approximately 30 feet. Many folks pass by it not even knowing that it was still in operation until 1996 when the volunteer Librarian, Miss Catherine James, died. This wonderful lady kept the doors open providing reading literature to citizens in "The Pass" as well as many tourists and locals from other parts of the Coast. The Town Library preserved an atmosphere of hospitality famous to Mississippi, which was appreciated by visitors and newcomers alike. Most of the books on the shelves have been donated over the years by local citizenry.

Miss Catherine James, Librarian, Extraordinair

Pass Christian Historical Society

The Pass Christian Historical Society was incorporated in April of 1966 with the intention of purchasing the former *Dixie White House*, which was destroyed by Camille. The Society's first president was William Wiegand who established a goal to raise $100,000 through pledges, dues, and contributions in making the *Dixie White House* a community asset in attracting tourists.

In 1973, the Mississippi Coast Historical and Genealogical Society held a meeting to establish a forum for a series of talks to be offered by local history buffs who had made serious efforts in establishing the history of Pass Christian.

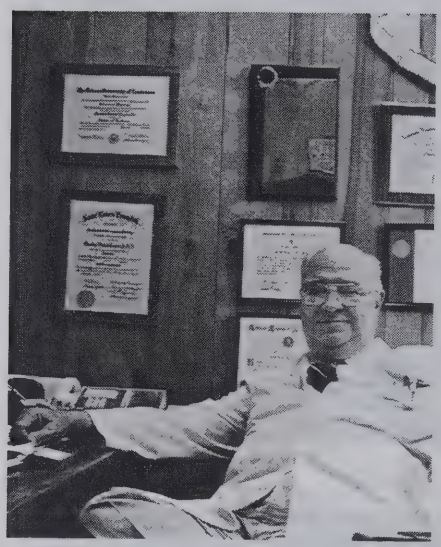
A renewal of interest took place in 1975 with the formulation of the Bicentennial celebrations for the following year. Mrs. John Pritchard served as President and Dr. C.D. Taylor took the helm in 1976 launching an ambitious program which has continued ever since.

These same innovators are credited with the evaluation and preservation of cultural resources which brought about the creation of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation which resulted in the passage of the Preservation Ordinance in 1977 establishing control guidelines on buildings older than 50 years.

With continued stimulation, an invitation to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History encouraged an historic site survey of more than 450 homes in the Pass. This established the criteria for Pass Christian's Historic District and its induction into the National Register of Historic Places with final acceptance in 1979.

With the ever increasing trend towards preservation, the Historical Society acquired the Lang Building, (the former *Pass Christian Bank* of 1905) as its official meeting place as well as housing and storing historical archives. A steady accumulation of scrapbooks, photographs, post-cards, newspapers, municipal minutes, audio tapes with transcriptions and other dated material have been collected and stored in the concrete vault.

Following several years of continued restoration and beautification of the property, an award of merit was presented in 1995. The presentation was made by the Mississippi Heritage Trust and the Mississippi Historical Society during the term of office of former President C. Randall Jones.



Dr. C.D. Taylor
A Pass activist who helped promote the values of restoring and preserving the cultural history and the traditional homes of the Pass.

Bill Kidd
An activist in many Pass Christian organizations, events, and causes, Bill Kidd will be remembered for his contributions to local history and heritage as Editor of the *Pass Christian Review*, a monthly magazine.

The Society serves as the Lighthouse and Watchtower to inhibit further instances of demolition by renovation and the prevention of any further intrusions and non-conforming building structures in Pass Christian and along Scenic Drive and the Beach Avenues in particular.

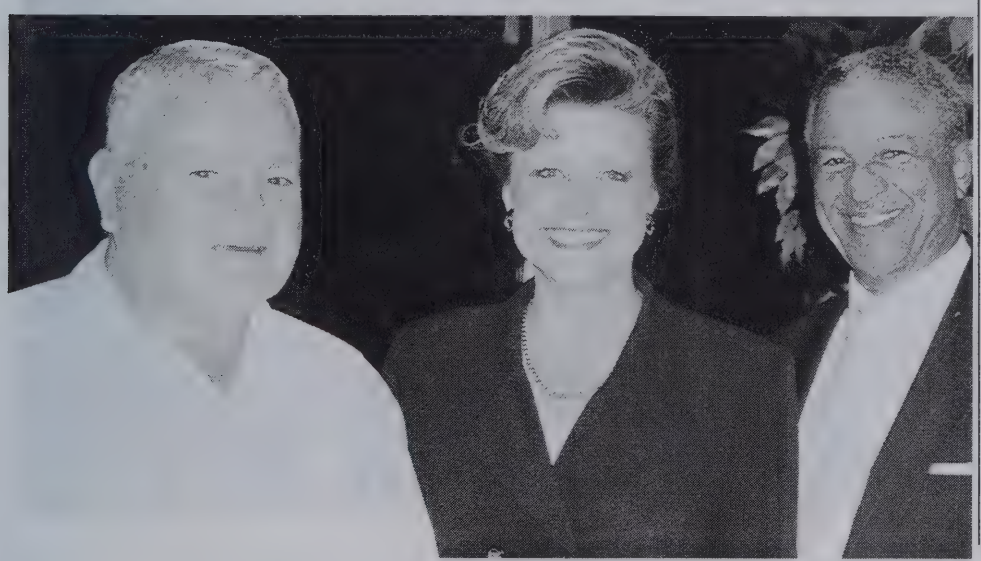
Monthly meetings present stimulating speakers and educational forums of historic significance and on the social side, a festive annual Christmas membership gathering is held in one of the estate cottages on Scenic Drive.

The Society is also the sponsor for the annual Pass Christian *Historic Tour of Homes*. With the graciousness of many good citizens, these beautiful homesteads are "opened" for public viewing and "tea service". This special endeavor also calls upon many wonderful volunteers to participate in these guided tours. This once a year opportunity affords not only local residents, but tourists from all over the Coast and other States to view the treasures of Pass Christian's Historic ambiance.

Dr. C.D. Taylor in full pageantry mimicking Dr. Flood aboard the *Alligator* as he raised the American Flag along Mississippi's Gulf Coast in 1811. *The 1976 Bicentennial Celebrations in Pass Christian.*

Museé Bourdin

There has been a genuine increased interest by residents to stop by the *Museé Bourdin* (Bourdin Brothers Plumbing) to drop off a photo or some archival relic. This community support re-energizes Billy Bourdin's efforts to continue building the archives with his dedicated research and continued categorizing of gathered information. The back room of the Plumbing office is stocked full with historical folios on more than a hundred and fifty special interest categories. And the photo files exhibited by Bourdin are unequalled.



Billy Bourdin
During the year of 1996, Billy Bourdin's efforts to maintain and collect historical documents and artifacts were properly acknowledged. He received recognitions from the Mississippi and Pass Christian Historical Societies, the Chamber of Commerce, and the local newspapers, magazines and television.
Applauding Billy, to his right is Beth Carriere, Director of Hancock Tourism and George Watson, Board member of the Harrison Tourism Commission.

Mardi Gras - Pass Christian

Starting in 1831, Mardi Gras Balls in Pass Christian were held in the coast's finest and most elegant hotel, the *Pass Christian*. After the Civil War, the Mexican Gulf Hotel hosted many Balls during the late 1800s and early 1900s. These first Balls were primarily for hotel guests and invited locals who also lived in New Orleans and upstate. Local townsfolk started having Mardi Gras Balls at the site of the present VFW building which then was owned by the Chapotels. In later years, the festivities were held at the second floor hall of the Northrop building, the site of present-day Hancock Bank. While the women dressed in customary evening gowns, the men dressed as *Dominoes* wearing long black robes with a peaked, cone-shaped black hat and remained masked until midnight.

As in the case of the street celebrations of Mobile and New Orleans, parades started a number of years later. In 1913 a local group of men organized a carnival association and introduced its first parade in 1914. Since it was an organization composed solely of men, their first intention was to dress a man as its Queen. However, at the last moment the male Queen backed out and the title was given to a lady. Louis Martin was the first King Arthur with Miss Elie Courtenay reigning as his Queen. Nevertheless, the men selected as first Maids honored themselves in full regalia.

And the Band Played on
Even the first Mardi Gras parades in the Pass had their musical performers. Riding the wagon are "Mr. Jim" Farrell and his "minstrels".

The parade was held on Mardi Gas Day, Shrove Tuesday, and the Ball was held the same night. Following the King's royal float were those representing regions of the United States. The dukes rode on horseback as the band entertained atop its own float as they paraded along Beach Avenue from Menge to Market Avenue and returned to Fleitas Avenue by way of Second Street.

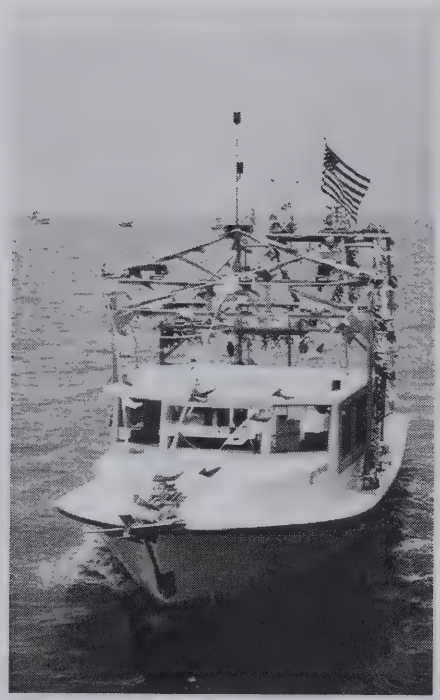
Julius Hayden was hailed as King in 1915 along with his Queen, Miss Forrest Lee Springs. In 1916, King Arthur III was Albert Andresen accompanied by Queen Thelma Hanson.

Mule Team
Mule drawn carts formed the base of the floats ridden in 1914, 1915 and 1916. The den for these floats was located at Fleitas and Second Streets.

With the onset of World War I, the Pass Christian Mardi Gras celebrations were discontinued until 1930, when a group of ladies decided to have a Carnival ball on Mardi Gras night as a school benefit. Headed by the Knosts and the Langs, Bernard Knost was selected as King Christian with Miss Marie Bertrand as his Queen.

Thus began the Mercy Carnival named for the Sisters of Mercy. Its first Ball was held in a large skating rink tent with its entranceway on Davis Avenue on the former site of the Mexican Gulf Hotel. These were the beginnings of the St. Paul Carnival Association which produces the most highly regarded and most festive Mardi Gras parade on the Gulf Coast.

The First Royal Majesties
For the year 1914, King Arthur I was Louis Martin and his Queen was Miss Ellen Courtenay.



Fleet Blessings of the Shrimp Boats
Father Ron Herzog and Rev. Bill Buice honoring past fishermen and Blessing the passing Fleet.

Blessing of the Fleet

"For the first time in the history of fishing here, the shrimp fleet will be blessed Sunday by Father Hayes, who recently was appointed to take the place of Father Leech. At this writing about 75 trawlers are here, many more are expected before Sunday. On account of the large number of boats it is presumed Father Hayes will bless them as a group however, this has not been fully decided.

Representatives of the press and photographers will be there to write of and depict this colorful event. Although only very short notice has been given the public a large crowd is expected." This was reported in the Tarpon-Beacon August 7, 1937.

The Blessings continued for about 20 years thereafter, however, becoming infrequent during the next 20 years. The Pass Christian Chamber of Commerce revived the traditional observance in 1977 becoming its principle sponsor. Chief-of-Police Ed Alley took the helm as its chairman and rounded up over thirty boats to participate. In the year following, he promoted the first Queen of the Fleet contest inviting every young damsel of Harrison County to submit their picture for the competition. The Chief corralled over a hundred boats to enter and set aside part of the area for a street dance. He also promoted 1400 pounds of free seafood. The Rev. Joseph Howze, Bishop of Biloxi, assisted by Father John O'Brien of St. Paul's Church, administered the blessings.

In 1985 the current custom of selecting King Fisherman and Queen Fisherette was initiated. With the opening of the brown shrimp season, the traditional spiritual blessings are rendered for a good season's catch and for the safety of the fishermen. Rev. Bronson Bryant of Trinity Episcopal Church, in 1985, stated, "It's one way of praising God's holy name in a very general way. Some may never go to church and this is where they get close to God."

Rev. Father Ron Herzog of St. Paul's Church, in 1987, stated, "Death is a sobering thought and the fishermen who face life-threatening situations want to believe a higher authority will intervene. The blessing cements their faith. The sea is so big, and the fisherman's boat is so small."

Baxter Jones initiated the ceremony of tossing a wreath into the waters in bereavement for all souls lost at sea. As a retired Navy man, this is a not only a natural custom, but an essential Naval courtesy. Incidentally, the First Deep Sea Rodeo on the Gulf Coast was held in Pass Christian in 1925.

Pass Christian Seafood Festivals

Following many years of annual Bazaars as fund-raisers for St. Paul's Parochial-Elementary School, a three-day week-end was announced for the 1977 Seafood Festival. Festival chairman Russell Ringer announced that Seafood would be served at the War Memorial Park for "take out" or "eat-in". Filling other positions were: Sam Armato, Co-chairman; Ben Carrubba, Treasurer; and Dave McCutchon, Publicity chairman.

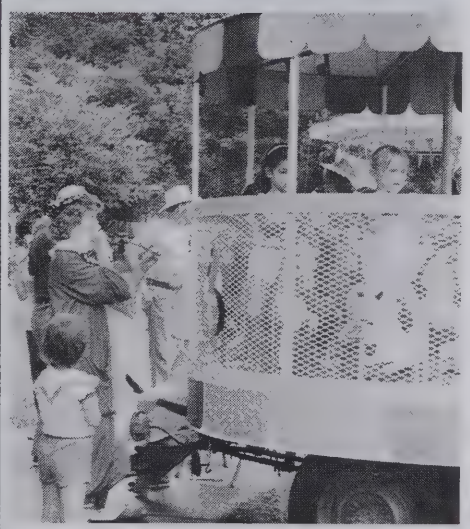
Governor Cliff Finch issued an official proclamation declaring the week-end as "The First Annual Coast Seafood Festival Week-End" as Barbara Davis was crowned Seafood Festival Queen by Mayor Zach Anthony. Scenic Drive was closed to street dancing, while adult and kiddie games included cast net throwing, boy's softball tournaments, and a baby contest.

Food served; consisted of gumbo, boiled shrimp and crabs, fresh fried mullet, hamburgers, barbecued chicken, watermelon, cakes, and candies. An Arts and Crafts exhibit was presented by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Craftsmen's Guild. Music entertainment was provided by the Air Force Band and Barbara Davis was crowned the first Seafood Festival Queen.

In 1979, the U.S. Navy Steel Band, with twenty-three, specially designed 55-gallon oil drums were used to play calypso music.

Other attractions, included, Diedre and Kasim performing as Mid-East belly dancers; and the first annual Tennis Tournament was introduced.

In 1983, the 5000 meter run and 1-mile run were added; and by 1986, food varieties included stuffed-crabs, seafood dinners, po-boys, and Tom Anthony's special gumbo. Live entertainment included Keesler's "Blue Edition" concert band and the First sand sculpture contest. Creole Jambalaya was savored in '89 while 22 game booths held the attention of young and old.



In 1991, the Festival was moved to St Paul's school grounds and for in 1992, the annual event received national fame by being listed in the World Book Encyclopedia. In 1993, a T-Shirt design contest was held. In 1993 and 1994, the event made the front cover of Sun Herald's "Marquis".

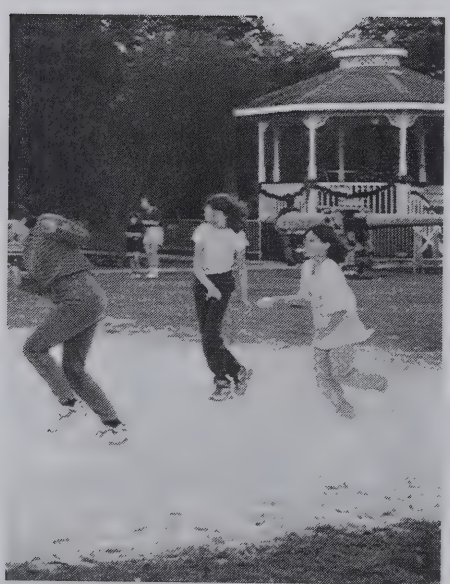
In 1996, celebrating its 20th-Year, the Seafood Festival was spread along Highway 90 in its new park expansion, *Parc St. Paul*, fronting the school and Church. A very successful year was had, as Parish neighboring Parish members, the Pass Christian community, and the entire coast made the 3-day week-end a totally hoop-la event.

Christmas in the Pass

Christmas in the Pass had its first extravaganza in December of 1985. The Merchants committee was formed with the support of the City and the Chamber of Commerce. Santa held forth at St. Paul's Gym for photo sessions with the kiddies who were left under supervised play. The kids also entertained during the Christmas story-hour while awaiting their parents who were free to go browsing.

By its third year, the rapidly growing celebration had gained a reputation throughout South Mississippi as an evening the whole family could enjoy. Santa arrived at Memorial Park and paraded down Scenic Drive to Second Street where he sat for photos and listened to the children's wish lists. The Merchant open-houses encouraged thousands of guests to register for prizes as they crowded the streets filled with anticipation and merriment.

Each year produced new embellishments. The kids love the "Holly Trolley" rides, entertainment has been provided by the Keesler Drum and Bugle Corps, choirs from local churches, gumbo cook-offs, a Seafood dinner at St. Paul's, all happily transpiring while some venturers have their faces painted in Christmas cheer. The youngsters have been delighted with Choo-choo train rides.



During the years, each advent of *Christmas in the Pass* introduces new innovations such as contests for the best decorated business, residence, and boat. Santa has even dropped in by Helicopter. Music from Jazz Bands may generate crowd participation in *Second Line* dancing. Visitors vie for hourly drawings for a free "*Buying Spree*". Fireworks into the Harbor have sometimes celebrated the occasion.

The streets are filled with small groups of minstrels and singing carolers as merchants offer special treats to the miriad of strolling tourists and locals who drop by the decorated shops filled with Christmas lights and ornaments. The tree lighting ceremony takes place at Memorial Park backed by wonderful sounds of a Christmas concert.

Drawing upon the City's richest assets the harbor has become jumping with anticipation with beautiful lights cascading down the masts and sails of the magnificent *boat parade*. The downtown historic district explodes into a huge block party with safe-havens at each merchant's shop offering warm mugs of chocolate or spiced rum-flavored beverages with holiday cookies. Santa alights from the North Pole passing out candy canes to young and old as he signals the Annual Tree Lighting in the Park.

Early Churches of the Pass

St. Paul Catholic Church

Monsignor Ron Herzog, St. Paul's Parish Pastor, announced the new 50 year Jubilation era. St. Paul officials, in completion of its third 50-year Jubilee period, proclaimed the year of 1997 as its ***JUBILEE-3*** celebration. In Pass Christian, one hundred and fifty years ago, in the year 1847, the first recorded baptisms took place with five white parishioners and one Negro slave becoming baptized on September 29th. In October of 1847, Father Buteux of Bay St. Louis was placed in charge of the developing Pass Christian mission and formed its first Confirmation class.

St. Paul Catholic Church
Historic Church Dates
1843 - First Mission Priest, Father Labbé
1844 - First Mass celebrated at Mission Church
1847 - First Baptisms, Parish established
1851 - First Parish Church built
1876 - Parish Church destroyed by Fire
1879 - Second Parish Church built
1969 - Camille damages
1970 - Second Parish Church razed
1972 - Third Parish Church built
1997 - Sesquicentennial Jubilee-3 celebrated

The St. Paul Catholic cemetery was dedicated in 1880 and the small church was replaced with a new larger one in 1851. However, this was followed by a devastating fire in 1876, which leveled the Church along with adjacent buildings. Therefore, another church was built to replace that one in 1881. However, due to Camille's invasion of the Pass, that one was condemned and a new, modern, and larger St Paul's Catholic Church was built and dedicated in February 1972.

Mother of Mercy Catholic Church

Originally called St. Philomena's Church, it was built and completed on March 5, 1911. The organization of the church was established by the St. Joseph's Society for Colored Missions, which acquired the land from J.H. Knost to build a church, a convent and a school. The new Apostalate was soon given charge to the Josephite Fathers of Mill Hill, England with Father Luke Plunkett recieving the first appointment who was succeeded by Stephen Sweeney in 1919. The church edifice is reportedly the oldest unmodified standing church building in the City of Pass Christian. The others have been rebuilt due to Camille damages. The interior and the altar are serenely beautiful and inspiring.

Our Mother of Mercy
Originally named St. Philomena's Church, it is currently under renovations and is the oldest Catholic Church edifice in Pass Christian, dedicated on March 20, 1911.

Sunday morning Masses are at 7 and 9. Newcomers to these services usually meet with inspiring and uplifting voices from the church choir membership.

Trinity Episcopal Church

The original Trinity Episcopal Church was one of the loveliest small churches on the entire Coast. It was erected on land donated by John Henderson and his wife and completed in 1849.

John and Louisa Henderson had also given Trinity some land north of the church for a churchyard called the Live Oak Cemetery. A part of the cemetery was designated "free ground" to be used for the burial of both whites and blacks.

Trinity Episcopal Church
Trinity Parish was organized in 1849 and its first church was built in 1850 on lands donated by John and Louisa Henderson. The new church complex has been completely rebuilt to the order of the first church following the destructions of Camille to the church buildings shown in this photo.

Following the Hurricane Camille intervention, the tragedy of Trinity Episcopal Church, parallels the courage and the spirit of the entire Pass Christian community in its Post-Camille revival. The church was completely destroyed. The Pastor lost his wife and the caretaker lost thirteen of his family in seeking safety in the sanctuary.

The newly rebuilt church was dedicated on November, 14 1971. With the help of contributions received from all over the world, the church was recreated as nearly as possible to the original. With the aid of volunteers from neighboring parishes of the Diocese, remnants of the first church were recovered and reconstituted. Valuable church records, altar vessels, the silver Communion service ensemble and other cherished items were found and refurbished. One of the Celtic crosses, fashioned for the first church nave was restored. Placed in the exterior of the sanctuary onto the opening of the breezeway is one of the original cypress doors. The original church bell had been stolen and a replica was installed for the dedication. However, just before Christmas of 1971, the original bronze bell was recovered and reinstalled.

Today the church stands as a monument of gratitude to those whose tireless efforts and generosity made it possible. Surrounded by moss laden oaks, it is now located just a short distance westerly of its original foundation. The new church also remains as a memorial to those who were killed by Camille's devastation to the Coast.

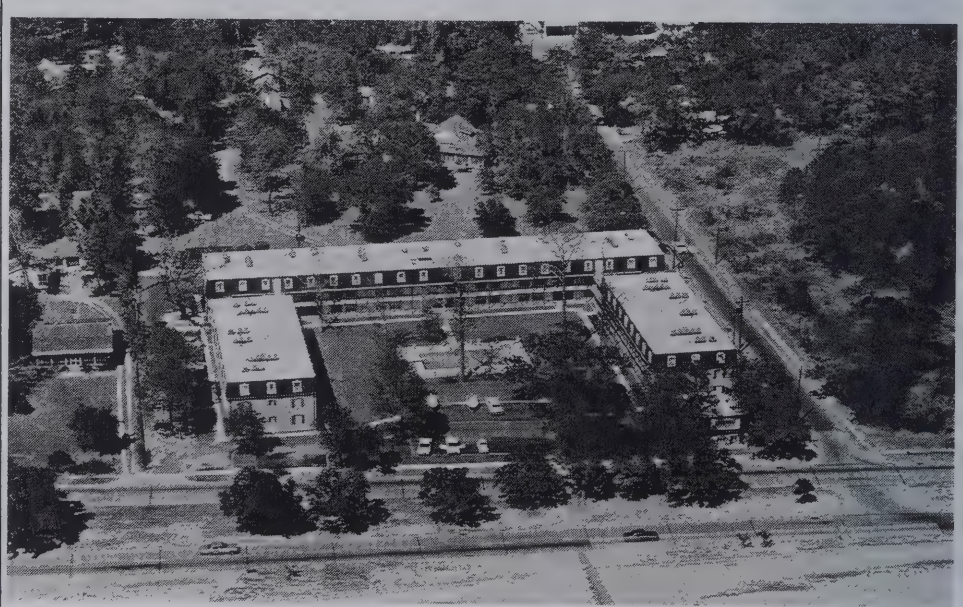
Twelve stained glass windows depict Christ's apostles. Six of these honor the
Pastor's wife and five other church women who died in the storm. An outdoor fountain was also dedicated for a deceased parishioner of the Vietnam war.

Besides the celebrations of the Gulf Coast Tricentennial, Trinity Episcopal Church will be celebrating its Sesquicentennial in 1999.

Camille was no Lady

Hotels and motels had not turned off their "No Vacancy" signs for the weekend. As on any Friday during the heat of Summer, the Coast was filled with tourists. There was little concern for weather reports; the sun was shining brightly. Later that afternoon, radios announced that a tropical storm south of Miami had converted to hurricane strength and was cutting across Cuba. Early the following morning, the Coastal area from Biloxi to St. Marks, Florida was placed on *Hurricane Watch*. In escalating moments, TV stations started advising evacuation of certain low lying areas. Early Sunday, August 17th, the storm was southeast of New Orleans by 200 miles. A *Hurricane Warning* was then announced for the entire Mississippi Coast. Evacuation was advised.

In Pass Christian, Chief of Police Jerry Peralta led his small force of patrolmen throughout the "Pass", assisting in the evacuation process.



The Richelieu Apartments
This 3-story apartment complex was completely flattened as a result of being in Camille's path. The 200 mile winds and the 30-foot tidal waves broke up the Hurricane party where 24 residents remained through much of the night to celebrate. Fortunately, many of them did not stay to the very end.

Many of the townsfolk were hurricane resistent in that they had weathered many killer storms before. They were determined to hold their ground.

Chief Peralta and several other patrolling police and fire personnel had passed by the three story Richelieu Apartments. The managers, Mr. and Mrs. Jones, were part of 24 residents celebrating with a hurricane party. Upon their refusal to leave, he asked them to list their next of kin. Unmoved, they continued to party.

George Watson put a call out to some 300 citizens to take shelter at the "Pass" High School Gymnasium. Many of the folk were reluctant to abandon their comfortable homes, but, in trust, followed his bidding. At 6 p.m. the siren at the Pass Christian Fire Station sounded loudly, proclaiming the hurricane's imminent approach.

Camille had struck with an calamitous fury shortly after ten p.m. The Mississippi Coast was devastated by winds clocked at more than 200 mph and tidal waves surging up to 30 feet. The unforeseen tidal wave moved across the beach, across highway 90, and onto the town. The mass of water, with rolling breakers on top, was so mammoth that many buildings and houses were instantly smashed to pieces. A solid wall of water advanced past Scenic Drive, crashing down the hill toward Second Street, and crossed the railroad tracks, rolling further northward. Then a second rush of water bombarded and inundated most of the town. The bayous backed up to meet the Gulf tidal waters flooding many areas 5 to 15 feet deep. Automobiles were submerged, resulting in emergency vehicles being rendered useless.

Glass windows crumbled. The water rose higher and higher. Some people were thrown into the stampeding water, not to be retrieved until the next day. Several floated aboard sections of roofing throughout the night. Bruised and badly battered, one person described her roof top perch as the "wildest ride of my life".

As the evening progressed, the hurtling winds picked up in excess of 200 mph. There were many valiant deeds performed that night by civil defense personnel, law enforcement officers, firemen, military personnel, and civilians in safeguarding others in distress. Screams for assistance were answered with daring rescues while other screams were hushed by the raging roar of the winds, not ever to be heard. Some pleas for help went unanswered because the would-be saviors could not locate the source of the screams.

Areas not hit directly by the tidal waves were still deeply affected. As the hurricane hurled its full strength, those who had gone to bed were awakened by the strong gusts of wind. All of a sudden, water was rising from the floor.

Trinitiy Episcopal Church
Completely flattened with the exception of the remaining stairs which lead to nowhere.

The water kept rising. Siding boards were ripped off their homes, as walls cracked open and windows and portions of roofing or floors above crumbled down. Then the house would cave in. Those attempting to escape by getting up on car tops would then be carried off by the raging waters. Some managed to stay afloat by catching hold of passing pieces of furniture or debris.

Other residents were trapped and would not leave their safe havens for fear of losing their lives. Pass residents spent the most terrifying night of their lives not knowing how much longer they could hold on. Many of them had ample time to reflect on the wisdom of their decision to stay, rather than evacuate as directed.

As the night drew to a close, the water started receding. People began assisting others in need. Well before daylight, more and more people began moving about, almost totally on foot, because vehicles had been under water and would not operate. The streets were blocked with debris and fallen trees. Then came the dawn. Daylight brought relief and concern. Relief was in the knowledge that the storm had passed, reducing the fears of the night, and that many friends and relatives had survived. Concern then turned to reviewing the full extent of damage and in counting the dead.

At Dawn's early light
Downtown Pass Christian is shown with the Harbor, the Yacht Club and the beach area completely razed. In the center of the photo is the old City Hall at the foot of Market Avenue. It had to be toppled due to extensive damages. Debris is strewn around all of the buildings and dwellings.

This night of terror resulted in the inundation of fashionable beachfront homes, hotels, lounges, restaurants, gasoline stations, office buildings, and the City Hall. All along U.S. Highway 90 devastation was piled high with debris. The downtown beachfront showed nothing but wreckage and destruction. Boards, broken window sills, twisted metal siding, ripped signs, and dissected vessels littered the beaches and highway. Trees, houses, businesses, and boats were splintered into match sticks. The initial recovery started with the survivors trying to do for themselves. They attempted to clear pathways through the major streets. There was no electricity, no water, no ice, no telephones, no newspaper deliveries, and, thus, no way to communicate with friends and relatives. Major relief from outside Pass Christian did not come until weeks later. Those who were too old to work and those who would not pitch-in to work were sent off to Camp Shelby near Hattiesburg. Only the strong of body, mind, and spirit remained to share in the long dreary task confronting them. A spirited comraderie evolved amongst these townsfolk. American flags were raised in a demonstration of a shared sense of patriotism and success in having survived.

During this ardent work phase, there were two weeks of *Communal Utopia*, shared by those citizens who worked in the big clean-up. They became comrades. Black, white, rich, poor; all dined together, consuming the same food prepared at "Pass" High School. They all bathed in the same wells together.

They also learned to laugh together as they discovered *steps to nowhere* and bath tubs hanging in mid-air. However, once organized disaster support phased in, the harmonious assembly once more broke down into individuals caring for their separate properties and problems.

The "unbelievable" brutality and devastation of Camille persuaded the Climatic Control Agency to remove her name from future Hurricane Listings -- much like they remove the jersey numbers of specially selected retiring sports celebrities.

The area which suffered most was Pass Christian. Every structure in the "Pass" and its immediate area was damaged by the storm. Seventy-eight residents were killed, either during the storm or from injuries received during Camille. The killer storm took the lives of more people from the "Pass" than any other coastal community.

The City of Pass Christian in its reclamation has numerous monuments to reflect on. However, with the passage of time these monuments have become obscured by new structures, new foliage and many new faces.

The Camille Memorial
Dedicated to Inez Bourdin, for her active support of many community programs, she propelled the idea for memorializing the victims of the devastating Hurricane of 1969.

A marble commemorative shrine was established in Memorial Park acknowledging the 78 Camille victims. The etched stone was also dedicated to Inez Bourdin who promoted the idea for a permanent remembrance. She and Billy Bourdin diligently pursued the names of each victim for proper identity and name spelling. The VFW assumed the task to collect the funds and when the projected budget was not complete, County donations were supplemented through the aid of David LaRosa.

The School Systems

Pass Christian enjoys the benefits of a parochial school, a private school and three levels of public schools.

St. Paul Elementary Catholic School provides instructions to grades kindergarten through the sixth level.

Coast Episcopal School located at the east end of Pass Christian has grades six through High School.

The Pass Christian School System serves the City as well as DeLisle. The System in the inner-city has an Elementary School serving grades one through six. It is located on North Street west of Henderson Ave.

The Middle school is located on Clark Street north of the railroad and provides training for grades six, seven and eight.

Glenn East, principal
Pass Christian High School.

The Pass Christian High School, located on Second Street has a large campus facility with a full compliment of buildings providing instruction to grades nine, ten, eleven and twelve.

Historic Scenic Drive

Scenic Drive extends east and west of the center of Pass Christian for two-and-a-half miles and its entirety is included within Pass Christian's Historic District. There are approximately 120 dwellings and buildings dispersed along the 330 acres enclosing the Historic Street. These homes and structures adhere to national historic preservation restrictions.

Most of the early construction during the early 1800s produced mainly summerhouses that were single-story structures with gable roofs and three or five bay windows and inset galleries. Styling was often a blend of Greek Revival and local vernacular ranging from cottages to mansions. These represent 17 varying architectural styles in the Scenic Drive Historic District.

Houses erected after 1865 were usually larger and often featured hipped or gambrel roofs with inset dormers. Colonial Revival architecture became popular in endeavoring to be homogenous with the older structures.

Before Highway 90
Scenic Drive, first known as Front Road or Beach Drive, was pervaded on both sides by the beauty and the shade of the Live Oaks which completely followed the course along the Beach. Not only is this street's history, but also its beauty, is held manifest in Pass Christian. *(This photo is courtesy of Hancock Bank with a view from the east looking westward.)*

In 1979, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History wrote the following plaudits on the architectural qualities of Pass Christian.

> *Despite recent building losses due to a devastating hurricane, Scenic Drive remains the largest architecturally intact major 19th Century resort area in the South and one of*

only a few in the nation like Cape May, New Jersey, and Newport, Rhode Island, both of which are National Historic Landmarks that have managed to retain most of their original character.

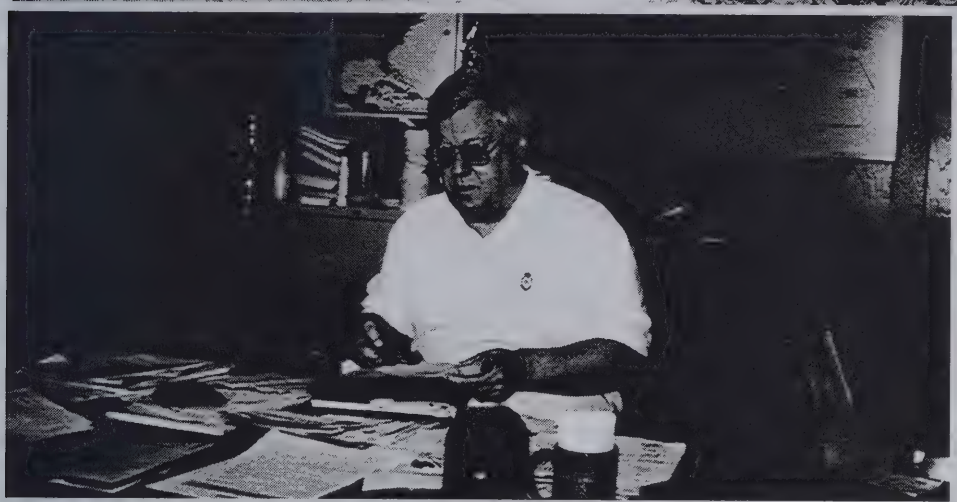
Nearly all of the homes along Scenic Drive have historic architectural characteristics for which they are registered in the National Register of Historic Places. These homes are regulated by the Pass Christian Historic Preservation Commission and monitored by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Since new owners may apply for permits to change a building's structure, they may ultimately cause remodeling/destruction which is prohibited by the Preservation Commission. The ruling guidelines protect all genuine historic structures from obliteration from their original architectural design. Nevertheless, on occasion, complications arise with attempts to modernize historic buildings while still attempting to preserve their historic features.

Vernacular Greek Revival cottages were indigenous to the Mississippi Gulf Coast area both before and after the Civil War. A large percentage of these houses predominated along the Gulf Coast, however much of the architectural heritage has been destroyed or remodeled beyond recognition making the ones remaining both rare and significant. **This results in making Pass Christian's Scenic Drive most unique.**

Downtown Main Street - 1950s
Looking east down U.S. Highway 90, now Scenic Drive, and earlier known as First Street. The old City Hall was built by Fred Sutter in 1885. The brick City Hall depicted here was built in 1926 and faced the entrance to Market Street. Market Street did not open to the beach or harbor. The gasoline station on the left is now the Garment Factory. Next to City Hall were three or four bar rooms lining the curbing. The Farrell Grocery building is now the Adolph Bourdin Building with the *Morning Market* located in its corner.

City Government

Pass Christian's City Hall is located on Scenic Drive at the same site of the original Lighthouse, which in 1831, was the first to be built on Mississippi's mainland. Overlooking the Municipal Harbor, the Mayor, Aldermen, and city employees make their headquarters.



Left Middle: Mayor Billy McDonald at his desk while signing a resolution.
Left Bottom: Pictured left to right: City Hall staff members, Grace Necaise, Tammy DiLorenzo, Vikki Goff, Val Isabelle, and Cassandra Alexander.
Top Right: Chief of Police, John Dubuisson.
Bottom Right: Rusty Necaise, Fire Chief

The Harbour Oaks Inn

Located at 126 West Scenic Drive. The *Harbour Oaks Inn Bed & Breakfast* was built in 1860. It is a large, two-and-a-half-story building framed with clapboard siding. The pedimented dormers off-set the gabled roof and was built as a traditional coastal cottage with double-tiered inset galleries.

Historic Note: This is the only remaining 19th century structure in the Pass to have originally been established as a hotel. It was constructed by Patrick Curtis and was originally called the "Live Oak House". In 1888, William Hart of New Orleans acquired it, changed its name to the Crescent Hotel. Hart and his three sisters managed the guest home and its flourishing gardens. Charles Dyer's *Along the Gulf* describes the Crescent Hotel of 1895, as being but a few minutes walk from the railroad depot station and consisted of two good sized houses with several smaller outbuildings. The larger, antebellum house, built in 1860, and the adjoining home, accommodated a total of 50 guests. The estate had a beach frontage of two hundred feet extending back for a distance of one and a half miles. The wharves and bath houses projected into the Sound providing another convenience for guests and lovers of fishing to enjoy. In the rear was a large farm comprising acres of sweet scented woods in which to seek quiet and solitude, while those of a more jolly and social disposition enjoyed lawn games at the front of the house. Other activities included dancing or singing as indulged in almost nightly. Everything used in the Crescent's kitchen were raised on the farm in the rear of the estate. This included poultry, eggs, butter, milk, vegetables, fruit, etc.

The **Harbour Oaks Inn** has been operated as a Bed & Breakfast by Tony and Diane Brugger as an exquisite 19th century hotel on the Gulf Coast.

Harbour Oaks Inn
126 West Scenic Drive, Pass Christian, MS. (601) 452-9399, or outside Mississippi, 1-800-452-9399. Accomodations: Rooms with private baths, A/C, cable TV. Full Breakfast.
Listed in the *National Historic Register*, Fodor's "*The South's Best Bed and Breakfasts*", Pitzer's "*Recommended Country Inns*", and Timblex's "*Best Places to Stay in the South*".

The Blue Rose

120 West Scenic Drive. The *Blue Rose Restaurant and Antiques* cottage originates from 1848 as a story-and-a-half, frame, five-bay, coastal cottage. Each bay has an overhanging cornice against a stuccoed facade. The beautiful gallery supported by square columns wraps around three full sides of the house. The distinctive pilastered dormers were added for emphasis. The outbuilding to the rear was originally attached to the main house as denoted by the numerous exposed rear ells. Sheet glass protects the galleries from the effects of weather. A cast iron fence encloses the property.

Historic Note: The house was built by the Hugh Fitzpatrick family. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has described it as, "the most significant antebellum house on the western portion of Pass Christian's beachfront. **Special Interest:** Each prior and current owner report their own personal experiences about the ghostly apparitions which are said to haunt the house. A Former Restaurateur, Binh Ly, dug up 150 Scottish-English ale bottles dating from 1830 through 1890 that were used as a walk-way between the two large palm trees in the front yard. *Also, of note:* Another Restaurateur, operating as "La Galarie", was Paul Mattox who was cast in several TV commercials, one of which, was the *Marlboro Man*. Prior to being a restaurant, it was the home of Hugh Fitzpatrick and his sisters who were descendants of Mrs. Manders who affected the famous "*Bedsheet Surrender*" when the Federal Troops were shelling the Town in April of 1862.

The Blue Rose Antiques --
Fine Dining Restaurant and Lounge
Built in 1848, this historic location is filled with stories of the many events which have taken place in Pass Christian. It is also known for its exemplary style of architecture categorizing it as the most significant antebellum house along West Scenic Drive.

Upon entering into the foyer with polished old oak flooring, one's eyes or dazzled by the turn of the Century French Chandelier composed of fine cut crystal and clustered with bronze doret hanging above the Italian carved marble table. To one side is a massive, extremely rare one-of-a-kind, 18th Century, Scottish, Hunt Board. It is made of solid oak and imbedded with fine hand beveled glass panes with four hunt boards, a linen drawer, and adjustable shelf cabinetry.

Something to delight every eye, these shelves store hand painted, Italian and Portugal ceramics and fine European giftware.

Mrs. Manders home was located across the street, south of Scenic Drive prior to the construction of Highway 90. It was there that Mrs. Manders stopped the Yankee bombardment of Pass Christian by waving her bedding sheets from her balcony.

Apparitions of a young damsel called Letty have predominated this home over the decades. As the story goes, Letty was the youngest sister of six siblings. Letty was prevented from playing outside the house because her parents did not want the townsfolk to find out that the young girl had severe mental problems. During a Yellow Fever epidemic, Letty was not spared. At about age 13, she died. Since she had seldom left the home, she now roams throughout the estate causing strange occurrences.

A prior owner, Paul Maddox, the Marlboro Man, had also reported visions of a young girl peering out at him from a window. The last owners of the restaurant and the current owners have seen apparitions near a stair well. Waiters and bus-boys have reported objects being thrown or dropped. Locked doors have been opened. Water boils on the kitchen stove when the gas is not even turned on. Once a bottle of wine was seen slowly ejecting from the wine rack only to be slammed upon the opposite wall.

BLUE ROSE ANTIQUES. Owner-Proprietor, Phil LaGrange, takes special care to import none but the finest in American and European antiques. While browsing through the beautiful antebellum home, one can appreciate the many oils and limited edition prints; the hand-cut crystal and fine estate jewelry; the rare collectible plates, bronzes, and Russian icons; and a vast selection of dated furniture.

19th Century French Bookcase with preciously hand-carved relief and barley twisted spindle posts -- guarded by two early 1800s, American Empire, parlor chairs with velvet and tapestry coverings. (above)

An impressive Louis XVI French-style cabinet with polished brass ormolu, and to the side is a gold leaf settee. To the rear is an Italian Buffet China cabinet with a marble top buffet. (at right)

Valentino's

Located at 116 West Scenic Drive. ***Valentino's*** was built as a new building in 1992 by its owners, John Harris and Ed Jurkowski. It's distinction is in the architectural design which prominently duplicates the preserved and famous Tullis-Toledano house at Biloxi. It is an unusual picturesque commercial dwelling which compliments the manors and cottages of Scenic Drive and has captivated the attention of many a camera buff. The Colonial Revival, two-story brick structure is adorned by a gable-roof and pedimented dormers with casement windows. Its inset gallery contains five-bays with square columns and an outdoor stairway. The reproduced hand carved railings give it an added dimension. A white picket fence fronts the property guarding a well manicured tropical garden parking enclosure.

For the discriminating buyer seeking distinction in giftware and home accessories, the Coast has only one ***"Valentino's"***. It is a phenomenal shopping encounter with a singular experience to peak a shopper's delight.

Proprietor Edward Jurkowski, Valentino is his middle name, attentively scours the market place for rare and practical items to place into his retail inventory. Making two big trips to the Atlantic Gift Market every year, he tries to buy as much American-made products as possible. Numerous short trips to other markets are also made to foreign countries.

With an art background and Business Major, he fuses his innate creativity with ten years of practical experience into a buyers' excursion of pleasure for all of his patrons.

Valentino's has something for everyone, particularly the shopper with a taste for discriminate distinction

Valentino's is a convolution of colors, fads, and seasons which has an answer for every gift buying occasion for every month of the year.

Valentino's is rendezvous with a medley of practical and bizarre items in gifts for all occasions.

Valentino's "Theme Tables" and "Season Corners" are a wondrous sight to see because of the extraordinary decorative features embellished with professional creativity.

Upon entering "***Valentino's***", the patron is immediately made comfortable with welcoming hospitality, and senses the mesmerizing ambiance of a superlative gift bazaar.

Browsing is made challenging by maneuvering from one theme table to another. Selections are blended with careful harmony within "Theme Centers" which are garnished and massed with a bounteous array of items that extend from ceiling to floor, or in "Seasonal Corner's" which incorporate select items for each upcoming or ongoing holiday event.

Valentino explains that planning and buying for a "Seasonal Corner" may take four months to a half-year as it becomes developed by applying his decorating talents. Frequently, however, as he is developing a distinct motif, shoppers furtively espy his samplings and off goes a chosen item to the gift wrap department. There, Valentino wraps the selection as the patron is invited to a glass of imported sherry.

The demand for Christmas items has been resolved by setting aside within the store a separate department which is appropriately called "*Year-round Christmas*". Valentino relates that this seasonal specialty requires sampling buying so that he can examine the product for its quality and uniqueness. Refusing to purchase from a catalog, he prefers to buy an assortment on a one-each basis in order to assure himself that the customer's tastes will be satisfied.

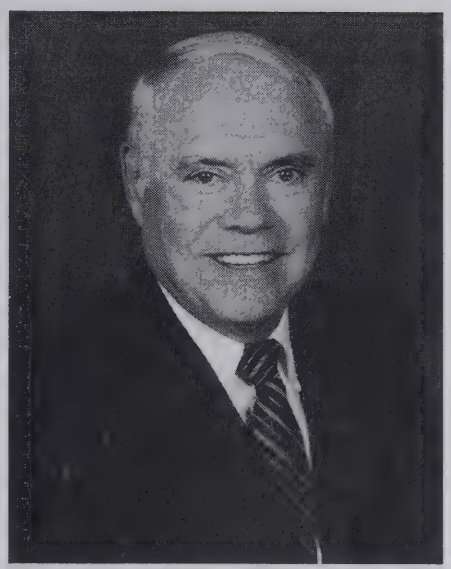
He also delves into a considerable inventory of rare gift items made of handcrafted leather, wood, jewelry, mineral, or glassware. A shopping trip to ***Valentino's*** is always fulfilled -- even if no purchase is made, because the emporium environment is so awesomely littered with an assortment of "goodies", that just browsing throughout, easily may take an hour or so. Indeed, it's a Shopper's Bazaar of bizarre and ritzy and flamboyant items. Simplistic and practical items also avail.

Specialty item purchases are made from Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Portugal as well as imported European selections. Valentino also reports that the China market has opened with good quality items.

In ambling through the store, one encounters unique displays of candles, bridal accessories, linen, etc. There are sections dedicated to home decorations, garden and patio, Men's Corner, Card Shop, Party Shop, Book Shop, Bath Shop, and an exclusive Fragrance and Aroma Shop with sprays, oils, and potpourri.

Literally there are Gifts for all occasions. Home accessories are as simple as colorful cords and sashes, or ornate plaques, wall pictures, lamps and shades, stuffed dolls and animals. It is rare to find more than two or three items which are the same unless sold in a pair.

Latter & Blum Realtors --
John Harris -- BRC, GRI



John Harris -- BRC, GRI
Latter & Blum, Realtor Agent
1-800-215-4111 *(Office)*
1-601-467-4111 *(Office)*
1-601-452-7803 *(Home)*

Latter and Blum Realtors, Inc. has become one of the Coast's leading Realtors which has been made possible only through the dedication and service afforded by its team of agents.

As a resort community, Pass Christian has always been active with aggressive industrial, commercial and residential property sales. Because of the Pass's love for historic preservation and controlled growth, John Harris consistently offers unique land and home selections to new business enterprises as well as to all newcomers seeking residential excellence. The many quiet neighborhoods surrounding the quaint downtown village are well known to John, who has kept an active presence in civic, social, and recreational organizations and events.

Typical, as many residents of the Pass are, John Harris arrived from New Orleans in 1984. As an entrepreneur and real estate agent, John has ardently offered leadership volunteer time to programs such as business development as indicated by his past position as President of the Pass Christian Chamber of Commerce. His avid interest in prevention of child abuse resulted in his position as Board Member of Hope Haven and as a member of the Exchange Club. He is also an active member of *Partners for Stennis*, which hosts numerous events to promote the agencies at the Stennis Space Center.

Not unforseen for his outstanding performance in Realty sales are his many awards, such as: The Residential Diamond Award, presented by the West Gulf Coast Board of Realtors in 1990 and again in 1991 in recognition for his accomplishment as the highest top dollar sales volume producer. He was also signalled out in 1992 with the Million Dollar Roundtable Lifetime Achievement Award and during the past four years has consistently been the recipient of the "Top of the Latter Award" warranted by being the *Top Dollar Producer* of the Bay St. Louis office. In 1996, John ranked 15th out of the company-wide competitions participated in by 900 fellow agents covering the areas of Baton Rouge, New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

John acknowledges his successes due to his many friends, associates, and customers who have helped make this possible.

Ever a cordial and affable salesman, John Harris never fails to promote the many benefits of Pass Christian.

Market Street

Market Street divides the town by East from West establishing an unusually unique street addressing system. The blocks on each side of Market begin with 100 with a divisional direction of 100 East and 100 West. In further confusion to the newcomer is that on the east, the street numbers on the northside are odd, whereas on the west, the street numbers on the northside are even. Likewise, along the southside of the street, the numbers are odd on the west and even on the east.

Historic Note: Since the 1850s, the center of Town has been at this intersection. In 1838, and again in 1877, the central business section burned down. In June of 1854, the Town Recorder (Mayor), John Brill and his wife Margaret gave the City, a 15 foot strip of their property running north and south with the stipulation that they could build a trading store on the south side of Front Street (Scenic Drive). This they called the Market House and that is how the street was later called the Market Road. The Brills also built and owned the commercial wharf at the foot of Market Road, which extended into the Sound allowing schooners a mooring place.

At this same site in 1885, was built a Town Hall by Frank Sutter. In 1926, that hall was replaced with a two-story brick City Hall with four large doric columns facing North from the south side of Scenic Drive. The building was 3-story at its southern end as it descended the bluff toward the Sound. It was demolished after Camille's destruction.

Frank Sutter was not just a builder, but a visionary who promoted the protection seawall along the coast. As Mayor, he promoted the Pass as *America's Garden of Eden*, which logo he had emblazoned on the Town's official stationery.

Following Camille, the City Hall building was not only severely damaged but because it also obstructed the view of the Gulf, it was razed in October of 1970 and the roadbed opened to Highway 90. The new City Hall at Scenic and Hiern was dedicated on May 2, 1971.

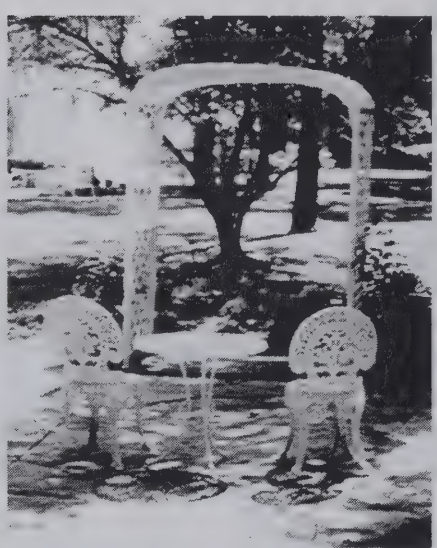
Extract from the new Ordinance Book of Pass Christian of 1858.
"The road opening South on the Gulf of Mexico, and running thence North to the Northern boundary line of said (Town) corporation, and having at is southern terminus, the public Market House, shall be known as Market Street: the said street shall be of a uniform width of fifty feet, including a banquet of eight feet on each side thereof."

The INN at the PASS

Located at 125 East Scenic Drive. The *INN at the PASS* was built in 1885 by Catherine and Nicholas Butchert. The Butcherts were not husband and wife, but were instead aunt and nephew. They were prominent in the business community of Pass Christian from the late 1860s until they both died in the early 1890s. The house was one of the first houses in the Pass to have running water inside the house. The water was supplied from an artesian well that was located just across Scenic Drive towards the beach. The Butchert family fondly referred to their home as the "*Artesian Cottage*". Nicholas was a member of the Pass Christian city council at the time of building the Artesian Cottage. Later, after the deaths of Nicholas and Catherine, Catherine's son, John N. Butchert, also was an alderman for the city council from 1892 to 1895. He died in his early 30s in 1902 leaving no heirs. The Butcherts are buried in the St. Paul Catholic cemetery.

Following the death of John Butchert, the Artesian Cottage was acquired by E.J. Adam, Sr. the Editor of the *Coast Beacon*, which was the primary newspaper for west Harrison County. The *Coast Beacon* office was located immediately next door to the house, and had been rented from the Butchert's by Mr. Adam from 1895 until he bought that property also.

INN at the PASS
125 East Scenic Drive, Pass Christian, MS. (601) 452-0333, or outside Mississippi, 1-800-217-2588. Accommodations: Four Double-rooms with private baths, a cottage with kitchenette. Air-conditioned, cable TV, and guest telephones available. Full breakfast. No Smoking, except in cottage. AE,D,MC,V, cash. Friendly rates.



E.J. Adam, Sr. owned the house until his death in 1942 and his widow remained there until her death in 1954. During his ownership of the house, E.J. Adam was the Mayor of Pass Christian for several terms, and was later, the president of the Board of Supervisors of Harrison County for many years.

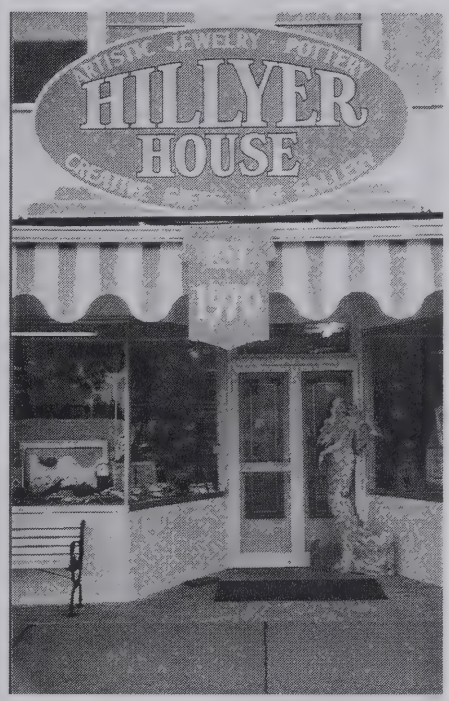
His son, Bidwell Adam, was Lt. Governor of the state of Mississippi in the 1920s, and his other son, E.J., Jr., was an alderman and the city attorney for the Pass. E.J. Adam, Jr's son, Warren Adam, kept residency in the house until 1980, when after 76 years, it passed out of the Adam Family ownership.

In 1994, the house was acquired by a Texas corporation under the direction of Vernon and Brenda Harrison. The house had been protected under the ownership of two different prior owners between 1980 and 1994, however, the house was not refurbished until the Harrison's took charge. The second story roof had blown off during Hurricane Camille in 1969, and it was replaced with a flat roof. The Harrison's restored the historic house to the beautiful home it is today. Painstakingly, the interior was completely reconditioned as well as having the "Eastlake" gallery millwork renovated.

The **INN at the PASS** was opened as a Bed & Breakfast in January of 1995. The Inn is keeping alive a tradition of "Houses and Inns" operating in the Pass from its earliest beginning in the 1830s. At various times there were the Mansion House, the Sans Souci, the St. Nicholas House, the Napoleon Hotel, as well as many other boarding houses and private homes accommodating guests. The **INN at the PASS** will be remembered, not only for the part "this noted home" has played in the history of Pass Christian, but also as an elegant monument to the rich tradition in the Pass for southern hospitality to the visitors that have flocked to the Pass and the coast through the years.

The Harrisons have turned the house into a pleasant, quiet B&B. The wide front porch furnished in wicker furniture, invites you to enjoy the view of the Mississippi Sound and the lovely sailboats, or you can just sit and dream about yesterday, today and tomorrow. There are five rooms furnished completely with period antiques and original art works. There is also a cottage out-back, with its own kitchenette for family accommodations. In the mornings, a full and robust Southern breakfast is served to delight the palates of it's guests. **The INN at the PASS** is listed in the National Historic Register and also in *Fodor's Best Bed and Breakfasts in the SOUTH.*

The Hillyer House



Located at 207 East Scenic Drive. The *Hillyer House* was built in 1950. The two-story, frame, duplex was originally built by Edgar Bohn and called the Bohn Building. The Bohn family came to the Pass from Prussia in 1860 with Nicholas Bohn. His sons were, Henry, a shoe merchant and W.J. Bohn, a blacksmith. In 1970, exterior renovations were added following Camille Hurricane damages.

Six members of the Reed family had lost their homes and belongings in Hurricane Camille. Nellie Hillyer and Katherine Reed began researching sources to replace lost articles, furnishings, and other household treasures. Based in Nellie's house, this service was extended to residents of Pass Christian who chose to remain and start over.

Moving to it's present location in 1970, the name Hillyer House was retained. For five years furniture, draperies and carpets were offered at wholesale cost. To support the service, antiques, hand crafted furniture, accessories and gifts were offered at retail and gradually became the mainstay of business.

Trips to England, France, and market shows in Atlanta, Dallas, and San Francisco were used to bring the shop unique selections from all over the world.

In 1975, Katherine became the sole owner with her daughter Paige assisting after school hours. Paige became excited with the opportunities afforded by the eclectic enterprise and in 1978 engaged the Hillyer House full time and soon afterwards join with her mother in an operating partnership.

They braved another devastating hurricane in 1985, which resulted in extensive losses. Drawing on their survivor strengths and not having the available funds to continue shopping trips abroad, they sought for inventory replacements closer to home. This resulted in their desire to accommodate lines that were predominantly "Made in America."

Presently, **Hillyer House** exhibits artistry of jewelers, potters, glass blowers, water color artists, and metalsmiths. More than 175 talented American artists and craftsmen are represented including Mississippians. Shipments are received daily in providing an ever changing selection of original creations. Contributing to their avid interest for preservation of marine life is exemplified not only by an extensive nautical selection, but also the mermaid which graces their portals. They also seek out and encourage local coast artisans to display their crafts and talents at the Hillyer House.

All Artesans sign exclusive agreements affording them high visibility and extensive publicity. Interest in them goes beyond business into true friendships.

The two, Katherine and Paige, mother and daughter, not only share in a partnership, but demonstrate an energetic friendship from one to the other that is greatly admired by their employees and patrons alike.

Hillyer House features a large selection of handcrafted jewelry in unique designs. All earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and pins are created in gold, silver, porcelain, pewter, glass, brass and copper. Today, more than 50 jewelers from coast to coast offer enticing selections in most affordable price ranges.

Katherine and Paige contract with more than 30 exceptionally talented potters who create handsculptured bowls, casseroles, pitchers, platters, vases, wind-chimes, shore birds, mermaids, crawfish, crabs and fish. Enchanting glazes represent a magnificent array of beautiful colors.

The Gallery offers unique items in hand-blown glass, such as candle oil lamps, bowls and vases in radiant colors. Other featured items include numerous designs of pewter serving trays, candlesticks, mirrors, agate-mineral bookends and southern gourmet foods.

Hillyer House is a leader on the Coast in maintaining an Art Gallery to showcase the works of many artists -- local and afar. On continuing display are original watercolors, magnificent copper fountains and copper enamel sculptures of Caribbean fish and water fowl. It is an adventure in discovery for unique and exciting items for the home or for gift selections.

Community Enrichment: In 1992, Paige was the promoter and chair-person of the Federal project called the *Main Street Program.* This community supported group project promoted matching funds from corporations, merchants, and individuals in securing paint for the artist/painter, John Trevino. This resulted in the decorative wall murals which can be seen at the Garment Factory located on the corner of Market Avenue and Scenic Drive. These doorways, windows, and canapes provide an interesting decorative facade signalling a major improvement and metamorphosis to the downtown area.

The Hancock Bank

Located at 265 East Scenic Drive. The Hancock Bank building is a monumental, two-story, Beaux Artes, commercial structure of blond brick and sandstone. The exterior facade is detailed with Corinthian columns with base supports of decorative parapets. Its interior retains most of the original detailing, including decorative ceiling plasterwork, a marble banking counter, and a vault frontispiece.

Historic Note: The immediate prior structure to this site was the Idlewald Hotel which was acquired in 1900 by George Taylor who converted the hotel to provide for a bank in addition to merchants shops and professional offices. Hancock Bank first opened its offices to the rear of this site on Davis in 1902 and in 1905 built a new building adjoining it. Hancock banking offices were maintained there until 1928. The current bank building was built in 1928 and underwent extensive renovations in 1963. The adjoining building on Scenic Drive, the former Nelson Hotel, operated from 1925 to 1975. In 1981, the bank purchased and extensively redesigned that building. Half of the hotel was demolished to provide a banking drive-through as well as plastering its front and erecting decorative columns. This facility serves as commercial lease property and a banking annex which fronts on Scenic Drive. The locals humorously refer to it as the *Half-Nelson.*

Hancock Bank -- Pass Christian
The present Bank building was built in 1928, prominently located at Scenic and Davis overlooking the Mississippi Sound. It has been serving the Pass community since 1902.

History of Hancock Bank

On the evening of August 29, 1899, the prominent businessmen of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, gathered at the Hancock County

Courthouse to organize a bank for their fast-growing city. Nineteen subscribers were present, representing a total of 198 shares, and these shareholders elected a board of directors.

A small frame building located on South Beach was rented for the sum of seven dollars a month, and on October 9, 1899, it was formally opened as Hancock County Bank. Opening-day capitalization was $10,000 and deposits amounted to $8,277.41.

Within a few weeks the board purchased a site at the corner of Main Street and South Beach and began planning a new building. A contract was awarded to John T. McDonald for $5,100 on March 1, 1900, to construct a facility which included a vault. This was the first two-story brick building in Bay St. Louis. It housed the bank, post office, and U.S. Customs Office.

Pass Christian was the target of the Hancock Board of Directors as they opened its second branch office, first in Harrison County. It was located on Davis Avenue immediately to the rear of the present Bank Office. The original building remains as a commercial property of the Bank and is leased for office purposes.

The first Hancock Bank branch office in Harrison County was established at the north rear of the renovated Idlewald Hotel in April of 1902. The commercial building was originally owned by the Elmer Northrop family, which is the present Bank site at Scenic and Davis.

When the Illinois Central Systems purchased the Gulf & Ship Island Railroad in 1925, a real estate boom was created along the coast. Business flourished and the Hancock Bank grew as well. With the stock market crash in 1929, financial institutions failed throughout the United States, and eventually the City of Gulfport had no bank. Because Hancock Bank had successfully weathered the Depression, a delegation of Gulfport citizens headed by Mayor Joe Milner, editor Clayton Rand, and Chamber of Commerce president J.C. Rich appealed to the bank to open an office in Gulfport.

On August 15, 1932, a new Headquarter's office was opened on the corner of Thirteenth Street and Twenty-sixth Avenue. Hancock occupied this facility until moving to Twenty-fifth Avenue and Fourteenth Street in July 1939.

The Hancock Bank built the building on the adjoining lot on Davis Avenue and continued its branch operations there from 1905 until 1928.

Under the leadership of its five presidents -- Peter Hellwege, Eugene Roberts, Horatio S. Weston, Leo W. Seal, Sr., and Leo W. Seal, Jr. -- Hancock from its beginning has been involved in public projects. It was the first bank along the Mississippi Coast to establish branch offices and was first to offer drive-in facilities.

Hancock's beautiful fifteen-story corporate headquarters at One Hancock Plaza was completed in 1982 having the distinction of being the tallest coastline building between Port Arthur, Texas, and Tampa, Florida.

From a little one-room office with a capital of $10,000, Hancock Bank has become the largest bank on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

St. Patrick's Day
Krewe of Blarney Halfast Walkin' Klub

The first St. Patrick's Parade was sponsored by the West Harrison County Hibernian Social and Benefit Society as a Pass Christian - Long Beach parading group which made its first and last parade on March 16, 1969, consistinf of truck float "hangovers" from the Mardi Gras parades.

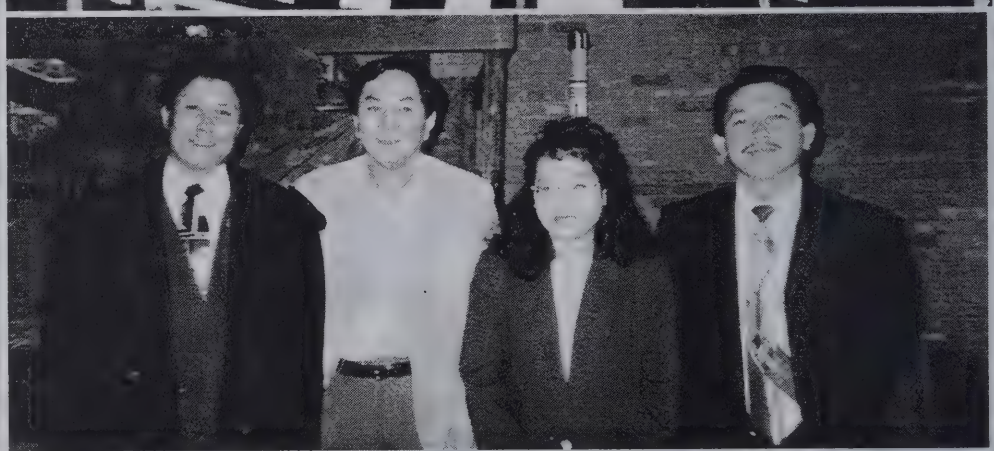
The Honorable Mayors J.J. O'Wittman and Bob O'Reed of the sister cities issued separate proclamations honoring the Wearing of the Green. "We invite all Irish men and women and those *'Irish at Heart'* to participate in the parade or to make their presence made in bidding the passing cavalcade."

Everyone enjoyed a great time with the exception of one incident. Gerald O'Toole while riding in one of the first floats, heard on his return that his Service station in Henderson Point was robbed of $114.00.

Twenty Five years later, in 1995, a call was made to all men and women of *the Pass* to hearken to the Little People of Ireland, the Leprechauns. Wearin' o' the Green was once more the order of the Day. Pass Christian, once more, would pass the cabbage and flow with green beer. *Erin go Bragh!* The Krewe of Blarney Halfast Walkin' Klub was organized as the only walking parade on the Coast. The marchers strut down Scenic Drive from the VFW Hall to the Miramar Nursing Lodge. VIPs dress in tux with green sashes, attended by businessmen, political officials, "*Second-Liners*", and the curious.

The first parade was led by Grand Marshall David LaRosa and Colleen Kelly Gallagher Zeigler. The second parade, by Mayor Billy McDonald and Colleen India Byrd McDonald.

The 1997 event was headed by State Representative Jim Simpson and Colleen Gail Bourdin Chasteen.



People making things happen!

Top: Peggy Johnson, monitoring permits and code enforcement. **Bottom:** Katy Pavolini contolling the Court dockets. **Top right:** The Russell Team giving service with a smile. **Right:** Judge Whitfield, Aldermen Michael Antoine and Gene Rogers, Dayton Robinson, and Judy Meador of Hancock Bank applauding the dedication at the Chamber of Commerce. **Bottom right:** Bat Nguyen, Lieu Tran, Viet Tran, and Vinh Nguyen at Vietnamese Council

Davis Avenue

Davis Avenue abounds with history as the main business and commercial artery for Pass Christian. Even though there are only about 18 to 20 site locations in the block between Scenic Drive and Second Street, the one block area has continued as a business center over the past 150 years. The two oldest current locations are Martin's Hardware Store and Bourdin Brothers Plumbing. The eastern side of the Avenue was the site of one of Pass Christian's most beautiful hotels, the *Mexican Gulf Hotel* which faced on Davis and backed up to what is now the War Memorial Park. Several of the current homes and businesses have retained and preserved the original wrought iron fence which was originally installed with the Hotel.

In 1948, parking meters were installed along Davis as a means of regulating the congestion. However, some townfolks didn't take well to the idea because one morning the merchants found empty holes in the curbing where several of the meters had been uprooted. Several weeks later, they were found discarded in a wooded area on North Street. Neither was the City Marshall fond of Mayor Hursey. To rile him, Marshall Bravo Woodcock would keep a pocket full of pennies, and while walking the street, "Bravo" would make coin deposits in expired meters.

In 1962 Davis Avenue was closed for a short period to allow for its widening by a variation of 29 inches at Second Street to 42 inches at Scenic Drive. However, some folks still have problems backing into the space in front of the 4 R's Restaurant due to an "S" in the curbing that didn't get straightened out. Prior to widening Davis, there were many cars illegally parking atop the sidewalks.

In 1969, before Camille, the Davis Avenue merchants got together to discuss spearheading a Business and Social Organization which was hoped to result in other parts of the City establishing their own organizations to do likewise.

In 1983, the Chamber of Commerce planted Crepe Myrtle trees fostering a Davis Avenue beautification program.

During the 1830's there were 3 Davises. Benjamin Davis was a store owner and his brother, Larned Davis, was the town mayor (Recorder). The third was Colonel Alfred Davis, a vintner producing scuppernong wine from his orchards. Davis Avenue was originally called *Davis Alley* since it was at first used as a private alleyway to access the beachfront from the Colonel's inland property vineyards.

Magnolia Federal Bank
For Savings

MAGNOLIA FEDERAL BANK
FOR SAVINGS

133 Davis Avenue
Pass Christian, Mississippi 39571
(601) 452-2472

Located at 133 Davis Avenue. **Magnolia Federal Bank For Savings** secured its Pass Christian branch location from the Resolution Trust Corporation in 1991. Historically, this property like much of coastal midtown Pass Christian was part of the original Carlos Asmar tract of 680 acres. As parcels were sold off, Michael Nicaud acquired the area along the west side of Davis Avenue all the way from the Beach to the marshes south of Bayou Portage. Eventually, the land was acquired by John H. Lang, a former Mayor of Pass Christian. This property faced the famous Mexican Gulf Hotel which was on the eastern side of Davis, from Scenic Drive to Second Street and burned down in 1917.

Magnolia Federal Bank was created and chartered in 1934 by the State of Mississippi as First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Hattiesburg. The transition to a full-service financial bank was the result of promotions of realtor, J. Frank Brown. Since its early beginnings, the bank has had significant growth strides.

Alfred Moore, an attorney, became the bank's chief managing officer in the 1960s. His leadership into the 1970s guided the organization into a series of mergers that resulted in the formation of **Magnolia Federal Bank for Savings**. An aggressive mergers and acquisitions program initiated in the 1980s further expanded the bank's growth most dramatically. This led to the development of the company's six current geographic divisions: Delta, Capital, Southwest, Southern, South Alabama, and Coast. Magnolia Federal Bank is the largest thrift institution in the State of Mississippi.

Corporate offices are located in Hattiesburg where **Magnolia Federal Bank** occupies several large and prominent buildings in the downtown commercial and financial district. Its phenomenal growth of organization has enabled it to restore a number of older buildings of the area including the historic Forrest Towers edifice and the former Woodmen of the World building.

The company converted from a mutual organization structure to a federally-chartered stock savings bank in March 1991. Magna Bancorp, Inc., was formed as a holding company to own 100 percent of Magnolia Federal Bank's stock. The sale of stock gave customers and employees alike an opportunity to share in the wealth of the bank's growth and profits. **Magnolia Federal Bank** is run by a board of directors consisting of local business leaders whose goal is to cultivate our institution and the community we serve.

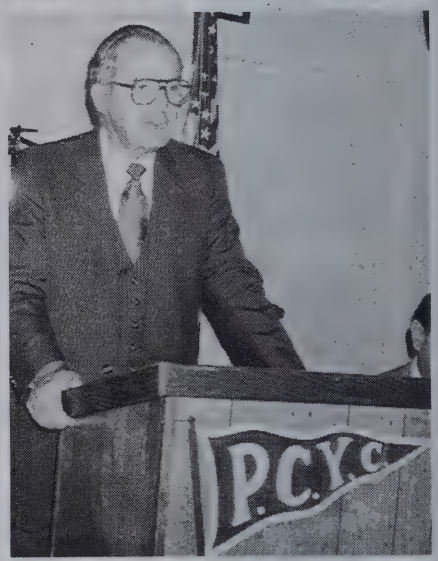
During late 1996 and early 1997, **Magnolia Federal Bank** installed a brand new state-of-the-art Windows NT computer network system throughout over 60 branches in two states. This exciting technological improvement has resulted in a dramatic increase in efficiency and speed of customer services.

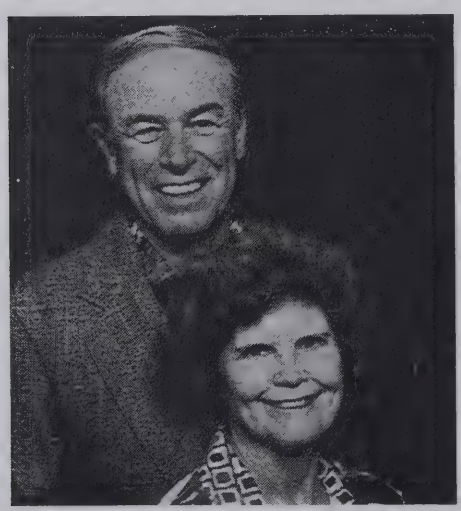
Since its beginnings, the mission of **Magnolia Federal Bank** for Savings has been to provide its clientele with a solid and sound institution for savings and deposit accounts, superior customer service, a fair return on investments, and ready funds for home ownership and industry use. **Magnolia Federal Bank for Savings** is proud to be a vital part of Mississippi's past, present and future and pays tribute to its Pass Christian Branch office.

Magnolia Federal Bank's Pass Christian branch manager is Kara Adams who is ably assisted by Suzie Giuffria, Amy Farnsworth, and Russell Lee.

Shakers and Shapers:

Top – left to right: Hugh and Catherine Griffon, Tommy and Alice Russell, Ellen and Baxter Jones. **At Left:** Mary Catherine Ward. **At Right:** Randall Jones. **Bottom – left to right:** Lynn and Warren Doussan. Edna Szymanski, Adele Bielenberg, and Mary Davids. John Lutenbacher.



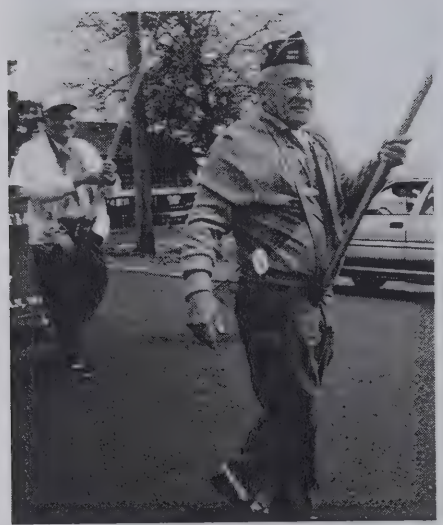


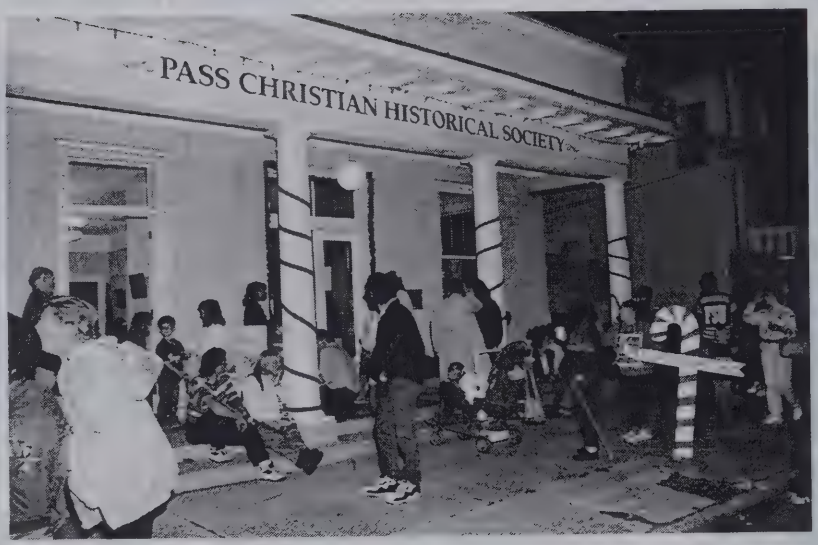
Café du Soleil

The Fava Building -- 138 Davis Avenue at Second Street. This corner location was part of the original Mexican Gulf Hotel, a huge, magnificent turn of the century hotel accommodating 250 guest rooms. In 1940, George Fava built the building and operated it as George's Bar. He leased out the back section to a "bookie" who operated there for a number of years. Later, it became George's Package Liquor Store and was leased out to various other tenants including the Gulf View Liquor Store.

Today it operates as the **Café du Soleil**, offering gourmet lunches accompanied by a wide variety of specialty coffees, mixed green salads, savory desserts and Ice Cream Bar.

The owners, Matt Gholson and wife, Heather, have taken their cue from years in Paris and New York City by creating an ambience that is eclectic and sophisticated -- yet comfortable and inviting. Customers are encouraged to relax on the sofas in the sitting area and to soak up the atmosphere, which is enhanced by the building's original 22-foot-long oak bar. Works by local artists are rotated year round, on the Café walls and acoustic musicians provide live entertainment on weekend evenings.



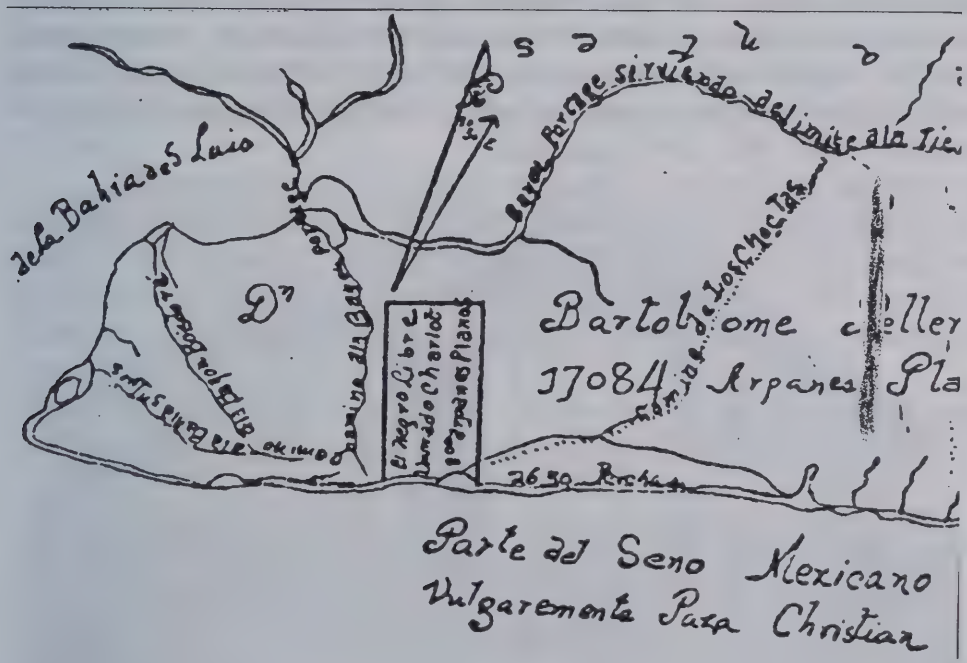


Always an occasion to celebrate!

Top: VFW members Jim Cerra and John Favre bearing the Flags. **Top right:** Christmas in the Pass at the Historical Society. **Right:** Grand Opening at Delchamp's. **Bottom right:** Holloween Pumpkin sales at Trinity Church grounds. **Below:** Easter sand sculpture of the Crucifixion.

Henderson Avenue

Henderson Avenue was originally called Portage Road since it was the main passage-way to access Bayou Portage and DeLisle. The only other roadway leading northward was Menge Avenue, which was formerly called Red Creek Road and before that, it was an early established Choctaw Indian trace as indicated on the map below.



Pass Christian 1809 Surveyor's Map
The area shown was known by the Spanish as the District of Bay St. Louis (Bahia de S[n] Luis) in West Florida (*Florida Occidental*). The map was drawn by the Spaniard de Finiels in conjunction with granting the property to Bartholemew Pellerin. The property was first granted to Francois Carriere in 1781 who was survived by the Widow Asmard, his wife.

The above map is the first descriptive map of Pass Christian and was drawn by the Spanish surveyor, de Finiels. The boxed area enclosed shows the land that was given to the freed slave, called Charlot, consisting of 800 square arpents. It was all of the downtown area including Market, Davis and Fleitas avenues.

The remaining large area was taken over by Bartholemew Pellerin, consisting of 17,084 square arpents with the northern boundary marked as Bayou Portage. To the west of Charlot's area, is indicated by three roadways described in Spanish and are translated from left to right, as: *Road to Bay St. Louis*, *Road to Bayou Boisdore*, and *Road to Bayou Portage*. (which is present-day Henderson Avenue)

The Peoples Bank

The Peoples Bank
*The first Peoples Bank building was erected on the northeast corner of Howard and Lameuse streets in 1896. The old-witch, weather-vane, that tops the original structure, has provided more than **100** years of continuing service.*

The Peoples Bank had its start on April 2, 1896, when 74 enterprising people gathered at Biloxi's Fireman's Hall to promote and organize a new bank. The founders moved quickly and opened for service on April 15, 1896 and dedicated its new bank building in January of 1897 where the Peoples Bank remained at the Northwest corner of Howard and Lameuse streets until moving.

In 1914, with the acquisition of the defunct Harrison County Bank, the Peoples Bank moved its corporate offices and all personnel including financial operations across the street to its new facilities at the present Southeast corner of Howard and Lameuse. The original marble fixtures and grillwork in the bank lobby, have remained untouched as complimenting construction additions occurred during the years of 1924, 1952, 1957, and 1975.

The Swetman family of Biloxi has been associated with the bank since its inception in 1896. J.W. Swetman was one of the original founders. His brother, Orcenith George Swetman, joined the bank as assistant cashier in 1903 and announced in 1926 an astronomical profits gain of 39%, while later taking charge as president and chief executive officer from 1951 until his death in 1963.

Glenn L. Swetman, son of O.G. Swetman, first became associated with the bank in 1917. On the death of his father, Swetman assumed the presidency of the bank in 1963, and served in that capacity until he was succeeded by his son, Chevis C. Swetman, in December 1983 and the elder Swetman continued as Chairman of the Board until his death in 1994.

Chevis Swetman, President and Chief Executive Officer, is proud of the historic rise of The Peoples Bank of Biloxi. In 1996, he led the celebrations of 100 years of continuing growth services and expansions. The Peoples Bank is ranked as the eighth largest bank in the State of Mississippi. Through the years, the institution has taken a genuine interest in community affairs and is one of the leaders in the economic development which has taken place within the entire coastal region. The Peoples Bank is also noted as a driving force behind preservation and restoration of local structures of historical significance. Some notable accomplishments include the refurbishment of the old Magnolia Hotel, which originated in 1845; the relocation and restoration of the oldest free library in Mississippi; the restoration of the Saenger Theater of the Performing Arts; and the listing of The Peoples Bank's present building on the National Register of Historic Places.

To ensure its continued efforts, in 1981 the bank established the Peoples Heritage Foundation, one of the few private foundations of its kind in the Southeast. Other projects of interest support included the establishment of a Mardi Gras Museum, the formation of the Seafood Industry Museum, and the preservation of several additional historical sites.

By all accounts, the Peoples Bank of Biloxi and the Mississippi Gulf Coast are true partners in progress "*Where PEOPLE Come First.*"

In 1988, the Peoples Bank acquired the former Gulf National Bank which had served the Pass since 1966. The acquisition included the present facilities which provides the Pass Christian community as a branch location "***Where PEOPLE Come First!***"

The Peoples Bank

125 Henderson Ave.
Pass Christian, MS 39571
(601) 897-8719
Fax (601) 452-9602

Second Street

Second Street was laid out and used as a common street by many of the first inhabitants of the *Pass*. It was primarily an access alleyway to reach other roads which existed in the Henderson Point area to the West and the Red Creek Road, which crossed the bayous to Menge. It was originally called Rear Road or Back Road during the pre-Civil War days. The roadway also provided a division break through most of the properties which had followed the original French and Spanish grants that measured 40 arpents deep, running from the Beach to the marsh areas of Bayou Portage or Bayou Johnson. Second Street became a public throughway with the revised Town ordinances of 1858. It was then called Rear Road.

Already existing to the west, was St. Louis Avenue which was called *Camino a la Bahia San Luis* by the Spanish surveyors. However, St. Louis Avenue no longer extends to the Bay since its western reaches were apparently encroached on by the Railroad right-of-way takeover in the 1850s.

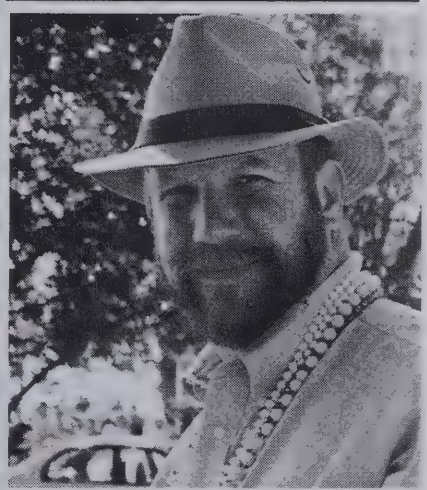
During the late 1890s to 1920s, a street-car route ran from Biloxi to Trinity Episcopal Church. The route was on Second Street in Pass Christian. It was also an extension of the inland road to Biloxi, called *Pass Christian Road*, now known as *Pass Road* in other areas.

1925 Map

Examining from the west, this map shows some interesting sites which have not been identified for origin, such as Dr. Gallant's Hospital at Henderson Point. Note the Ferry wharf which existed prior to the 1928 wooden automobile bridge. Some street name or location errors are noted, such as: St. Louis Street at Henderson is shown as Second, and Adam Pike is incorrectly placed. Several roadways crossing Pass Christian Isles and Timberidge no longer exist, as well as the West Side Station at Cedar was a former railroad passenger stop-off.

At the P.C.Y.C. site was the Pass Packing Company. The highschool is the present location of City Hall. The Bank of Pass Christian is the current Historical Society and the Post Office is the location of Allen Appliances. Notice that the Hancock Bank is at its original site fronting on Davis Ave. behind its current location. The Depot displayed on the Cover of this book is shown between Davis and Fleitas.

And more Shakers and Shapers:
Top—left to right: Karen Parsell. Lynda Cook, Lillian Buice, and Karen Boudreau. Chuck Breath and Rick Cromwell. **At Left:** J.J. Lassabbe. **At Right:** Angelle and Monte Luffey. **Bottom—left to right:** Alicia Ellis, John McDonald, and Ed Macdiarmid.



The Pass Christian Public Library

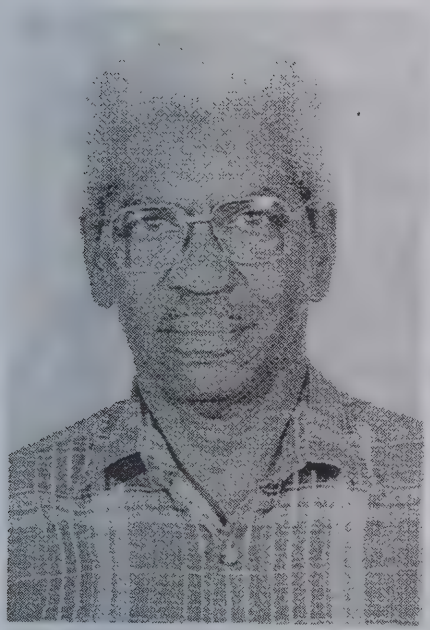
The Pass Christian Library, a member of the Harrison County Library System, is located on Hiern Avenue behind the City Hall. The public library, erected in 1973, opened its doors with approximately 6,000 donated books and has grown to house over 33,000 volumes.

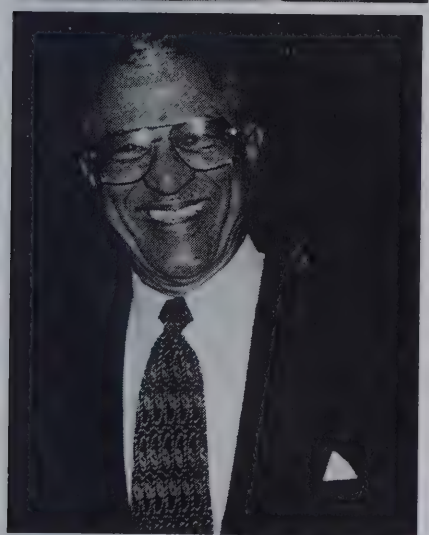
In order to accommodate the growing collection, the library opened a festive children's wing in June of 1992. This edition provides parents and children with dedicated quarters that are filled with easy-to-read and juvenile specific reading materials.

Aside from traditional library services, alternatives are offered to users in such elements as videos, audio cassettes, and computer use on seven independent state-of-the-art computer systems with sharing and storage capabilities. The Pass Christian Library was the first library on the Gulf Coast to provide internet access to the public. This growing system provides students and net-explorers with hours of educational and recreational searching. The library is electronically linked with seven other members of the Harrison County Library System revealing all book holdings in the county at one glance.

The computers are also equipped with many popular applications such as Word Perfect and MicroSoft Word with accompanying laser printers. Other office use equipment available to the public are: Copy-machine, Fax, Typewriter. Hours are: Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Tuesdays until 7:00 p.m.) and also Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

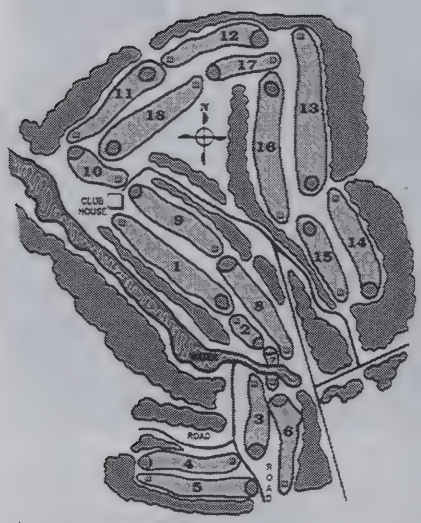
The Library Staff
Open six days a week and evenings on Tuesdays, the Librarians are devoted to help and serve. **Above:** Cynthia Anderson. **Below:** left to right, standing; Jerry Sellier, Helen Maldonado, Sally James, Ann McGraw, and seated, Linda McArthur.





More Shakers and Shapers:
Top – left to right: Otis Gates, Laura Clark, and John Harris.
At Left: Ed Jurkowski and H.W. Griffon.
At Right: Roland Martin. **Bottom – left to right:** George Watson, Dan Ellis, and Chief John Dubuisson.

Pass Chirstian Isles Golf Club



Pass Christian Isles Golf Club
150 Country Club Drive, Pass Christian, MS.
Mike Burke, PGA - (601) 452-3830
U.S.G.A. Rules Govern All Play
18-holes - 6,480 yards of greens and fairways
Club House, Pro-Shop, Restaurant and Lounge

Located in the heart of Pass Christian amidst the tall yellow pines, live oaks, and magnolias, the well-kept, manicured greens of the Pass Christian Isles Golf Club, cut through the country-club environments of the TimberRidge and Pass Christian Isles communities. The 18 holes of play, can be found along natural and man-made ravines and ponds. The lovely Bayou Boisdore, *Golden Woods*, cuts its path through the fairways attended by a wooden bridge providing access across it for carts and golfers. The tree-lined fairways and well-bunkered small greens make it a challenge for golfers of all abilities. Some of the Coast's most challenging holes are encountered along the 6,480 yards of play.

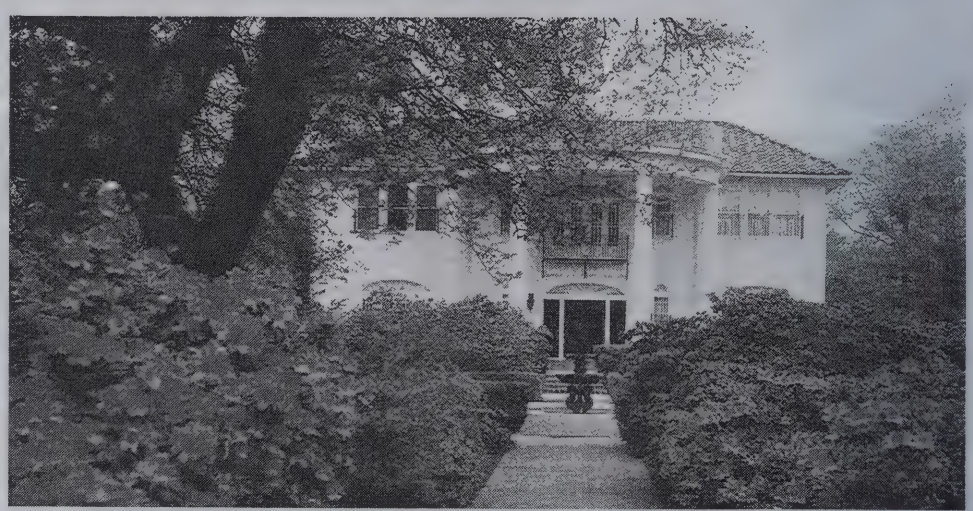
Pass Christian Isles Golf Club, Inc. was incorporated in April of 1952. Prior to that, the area abounded in wild game for local hunters and was also used as a local race track for quarter-horses. It is not unusual for our guests to find a red fox, or a young white-tail deer jauntily crossing their path. The surrounding area is a national bird sanctuary where bird-watchers frequently take photographs of the feathered and furred creatures of the surrounding woods and thickets.

Mike Burke, PGA, manages the property with a full staff of personnel in support of the pro-shop, restaurant and lounge, and groundskeeping.

CAT

Hide-Away Places

Pass Christian has so many historically beautiful homes and wonderful residential subdivisions, that even though the town is relatively small, their are many aspects to it. Many tourists are not aware of the professionally manicured golf course greens in the woods less than a mile from the beach. There are also country estates and ranch quarters to be traveled to within short distances. Two interesting homes are below. One overlooks Bayou Johnson and Bayou Portage less than a quarter of a mile outside the City limits. It is locally known as ***The Mediterranean***, the other beautifully landscaped mansion, ***The House of Mary***, is less than a two-minute drive further north.



Castle Sherman
A Place Apart

The castle's early construction began in 1921 by James M. Sherman. Solely with the assistance of a young negro to help him pour concrete; at age 67, the horticulturist, agriculturist, and author of several books; designed the solid cement steel-reinforced castle at West Beach, Highway 90. At the time of his death, he had completed most of the structure with nine-inch thick walls.

One of his daughters, Mrs. George (Jessie) Gundlach moved from St. Louis to reside at the Castle five years after Sherman's death in 1937. Mrs. Gundlach, an accomplished oil-painter, renamed the castle to Chateau Sherman where she also installed a separate room within her home to house the crafts of the newly formed Boy Scout Troop 211, which was initiated in 1957.

As Internationalists, the Gundlachs frequently entertained foreign guests from all over the world. Often, they would invite foreign newcomers who were stationed at Keesler Air Field. In particular favor were the Korean flight officers. During a trip around the world, the Gundlachs toured Korea for two weeks while reestablishing acquaintances with the nearly 100 Republic of Korea airmen who had been guests in their Pass Christian home during the 1950s. They were awarded the "*Wings of the Air Force*" in appreciation for the International Friendship they had promoted. The Koreans dubbed the castle, the "College of International Friendship." While in Seoul, Korea they were also acknowledged by the Korean Boy Scouts for furtherance of scouting in that country and in recognition of the orphan adoption program that the Gundlachs had sponsored.

Jessie Gundlach was Mrs. International Hospitality. She wrote a poem which truly depicted her graciousness. It was entitled "*A Cup of Coffee*", epitomizing the hostess's desire to invite a select set of people to her castle. She never forgot scouting, which included Girl Scouts and Brownies, who were taught patriotism in lowering-the-flag ceremonies on the Castle's front lawn followed by singing "*America.*"

George Gundlach died at age 80 in 1968. Jessie survived him and weathered the tidal surge that passed through her sturdy Castle as she remained the night by herself during the 1969 Hurricane. In 1975, the valiant woman honored McKinley Bradley with a weekend *Garden Walk*. The Castle was opened to the public for viewing the lawns and gardens. Bradley was acknowledged for his continued service to the building, maintenance and repairs of the Castle, which he had ardently pursued for 53 years. He was the same young Negro who had helped her father, James Sherman, pour the first concrete for the Castle Sherman. In his honor, a plaque was placed on the walls, marking the theme of the Castle, **"God is my Sculptor."**

Jazz in the Pass

A Closer Walk with Thee

"Let's give it to the Captain real sweet and low," announced the Grand Marshall of the first and last Jazz funeral held in Pass Christian. The band's brass and wood instruments sounded out with *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*. The 16 piece Dixieland jazz band arrived from New Orleans with many other Jazz aficionados from Louisiana and Mississippi. Blacks and Whites came together in memorializing the man from the Pass who had just passed on to his final rest.

It was in January 1971 when the church bells tolled for Captain John Handy, Jr. who died at the age of 70 while in retirement at his little house just a few doors down from the Goodwill Baptist Church. Last rites were performed by the Reverend Pastor Calvin Jackson. The small church emptied slowly while the echoing bells were being saluted by all the other churches throughout the small downtown community of Pass Christian. The sun broke from the clouds to shine brightly and dried out the wet ground from the early morning rain. The Pass was still recovering from the disastrous effects of Hurricane Camille. The bells continued to peel in loud cadence for the better part of an hour.

As the poll-bearers hoisted the casket into a special limousine, Harold DeJean, led the world-famous Olympia Brass Band while boasting, **"We come to lay him down right . . . with the first New Orleans Jazz funeral ever held in Mississippi."**

Innovator Musician Cap'n Handy
Seated to the left of another Jazz-Great personality is John Handy of Pass Christian. Third Street, where he lived, was renamed in his honor and is now called Handy Street.

DeJean's group was all dressed in black trousers with white shirts and red arm-bands topped with white conductor hats with black brims. Most of them were Black with a few White players, none of whom were keeping a conformed stride but, nevertheless, maintained harmony and coordinated rhythms as they played softly and soulfully.

In keeping with New Orleans tradition, the ritualistic funeral caravan commenced its mile-long journey to the Trinity Church graveyard. From the Goodwill Baptist Church, the band led the hearse in a somber funeral march playing spiritual hymns while passing the small sun-bleached house on Third Street south of the tracks where Captain John Handy, Jr. had lived with his wife. The procession moved south to Second Street and turned west to Church Street.

Grand Marshall DeJean was dressed in his shiny tuxedo with his chest crossed by a sash with gleaming letters indicating the Olympia inscription. He kept his rigid but rocking strut while cradling his hat on his wrist and forearm all the way to Live Oak Cemetery.

There were almost 5000 people -- relatives, friends, fans, and on-lookers who gathered in the Pass for this funeral celebration. Many of whom, somberly followed the funeral procession in its slow, swaying and meandering path to the Cemetery.

Cap'n Handy was born in the Pass to a family filled with musicians. His mother played piano and his father had led local walking bands. His brothers and sisters also played various instruments. Captain Handy was known all over the world for his saxophone. He had played with numerous Jazz groups starting at the age of 12 until 1968. He played with the Storyville Ramblers as well as Louis Armstrong. He also performed at the famed Preservation Hall in the French Quarters and traveled the World playing stints from Japan to Europe.

Upon completing the commemoration for the Captain and on retracing the route from Live Oak, all sixteen members of the Olympia Band changed their beat and their step. Throngs of people joined in the extended "*Second Line*" while enhancing their shuffle and their strut and vigorously waving handkerchiefs or spinning umbrellas in a statement of their *Adieus* to the Captain. In memorializing him, the City of Pass Christian changed the name of Third Street at the ballpark to Handy Street in venerating the man and his talents.

John Handy, the Jazz Great

John Handy was born June 24, 1900 on Davis Avenue. When he was 12 years old he played as a percussionist in his father's band along with John Moliere on the trumpet, Frank Toles on the trombone,

Willie Davies on the guitar, Selvin Thomas at bass, and John Sr. on the violin.

At 15 years, John Jr., while having learned to pluck his mandolin, formed his own band with two of his brothers, Sylvester at bass and Julius with guitar. They played the Pass and local community bars and often performed at the Mexican Gulf Hotel. Rejoining his father's band and having learned the clarinet, he met up with Tom Albert at trumpet and Charlie Watson on drums. Tom Albert formed his own band and took Handy with him to New Orleans soon after the *Storyville* in the French Quarters was closed down.

In 1928, Handy formed his own band called the "Louisiana Shakers" playing the alto-sax which included another native of the Pass, Eddie "Charlie" Watson on guitar. Handy's style favored New Orleans Jazz, but he originated a sound of his own, which was closer to "Rythym and Blues". As he became more well known, other musicians assimilated his style and his sound. His first recording didn't take place until 1960 when he was getting on with age. Having learned the clarinet, his first record was a milestone in the history of jazz. Following romps with other bands and recordings, it wasn't until 1965 and 1966 that he came into his foremost acclaim. Cap'n Handy's New Orleans Jazz played Germany, England, Japan, Canada, and South America. Some of Handy's greatest swing tunes were "Perdido", "Handy's Gulf Coast Boogie", and "One o'clock Jump". The last time he stepped into the limelight was when he performed at the Newport Jazz Festival on July 10, 1970 with the *Preservation Hall Band* and the *Eureka Brass Band*. In one of his last recordings with RCA, Louis Armstrong combined with Handy to perform "Just a Closer Walk with Thee."

Cap'n John Handy died on January 10, 1971 while in retirement at his home in Pass Christian. Although aged 70, his fame had climaxed during the final ten years of his life. The influence of his New Orleans Revival Jazz style became much more noticeable in European Jazz circles than in the United States. It was also John Handy who put the saxophone into its proper light as a mainstream Jazz sound.

Because of him, many old veterans of the sax were sought after for inclusion into the Revival Jazz sound in emulation of Handy's style. Some of these were Leroy Robinet, Louis Cottrell, Harold Dejahn, Albert Delone, Paul Barnes, Ruben Roddy and included the English musician, Sammy Rimmington and the German, Peter Müller. Famed Handy tradition numbers such as "Handy's Boogie Woogie" and "Cap's Blues" are still played the Jazz-world 'round.

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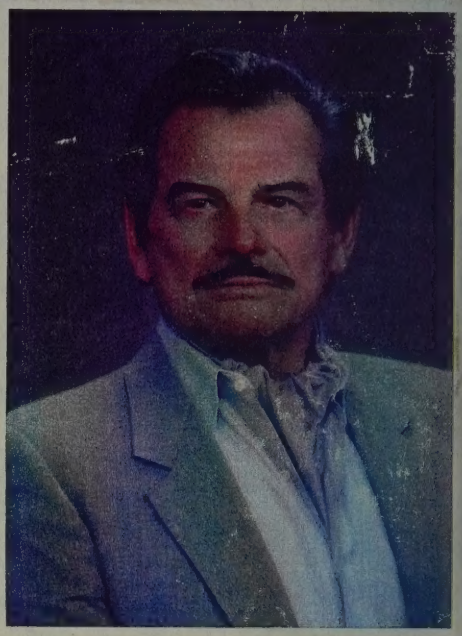

DAN ELLIS

Former Educator and business owner, Ellis holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Southeastern Louisiana, and a Master's degree in Education from Loyola University. Additional Graduate work was achieved in Sociology and Psychology from Tulane University and Louisiana State University.

He is noted for many articles on Computer Technology in New Orleans newspapers and in Computer journals. Upon taking permanent residence on the Gulf Coast he has authored articles and books on folklore and historic events. Historic books he has written about Pass Christian are: "*Pass in Revue*", "*Jubilee-3, a Commemorative of St. Paul Parish*", "*A Panaramic Photograveur of Scenic Drive*", and "*Pass Christian - TriCentennial*". He has also published "*A Panarama of History and Culture - Mississippi Gulf Coast* ".

He is in process of completing an historical saga commemorating the Gulf Coast's Tri-Centennial, 1699 to 1999. A "Bay St. Louis Tri-Centennial" edition is scheduled for completion.

Ellis is active with the Coast Chamber of Commerce as a member of its Board of Directors, and was signaled out by "Coast Business" for its Who's Who for 1995. -- He is also a contributing Writer to several books and magazines and is the Editor for the *AARP Mississippi Newsletter*. His style of writing is light and easy while his research is pursued with in-depth scrutiny for cautious authenticity in Historical Correctness.

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